# John Marshall Robsion

LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM KENTUCKY

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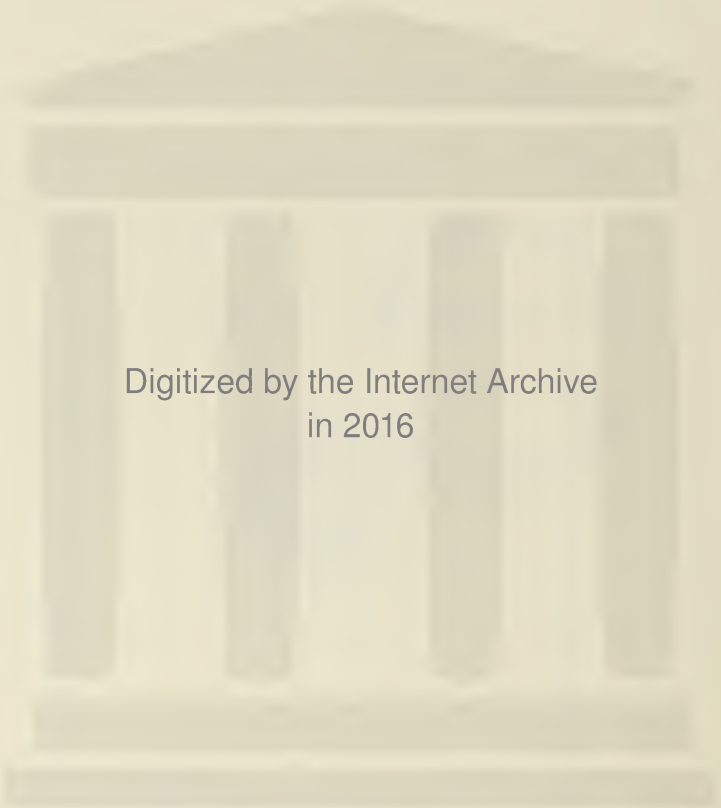
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# Memorial Services

HELD IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, TOGETHER WITH REMARKS PRESENTED IN EULOGY OF

# John Marshall Robsion

LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM KENTUCKY

50-60679
U.S.

Eightieth Congress
Second Session

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## Biography

JOHN MARSHALL ROBSION was born near Berlin, Bracken County, Ky., January 2, 1873; attended the common schools, the National Northern University, Ada, Ohio, and Holbrook College, Knoxville, Tenn.; was graduated from the National Normal University, Lebanon, Ohio, and from the law department of Centre College, Danville, Ky., in 1900; taught in the public schools of Kentucky for several years, and in Union College, Barbourville, Ky.; was admitted to the bar in 1898 and commenced practice at Barbourville, Ky.; president of the First National Bank of Barbourville, Ky., delegate to the Republican National Convention at Chicago in 1916; elected as a Republican to the Sixty-sixth and to the five suceeding Congresses and served from March 4, 1919, until January 10, 1930, when he resigned to serve as United States Senator; appointed to the Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Frederick M. Sackett, and served from January 11, 1930, to November 30, 1930, when a duly elected successor qualified; unsuccessful candidate for election to the vacancy and also for the full term in 1930; resumed the practice of law; elected to the Seventy-fourth and to the six succeeding Congresses and served from January 3, 1935, until his death in Barbourville, Ky., February 17, 1948; interment in Barbourville Cemetery.

## In the House of Representatives

MONDAY, *March 15, 1948.*

Mr. LECOMPTE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Accounts, I call up a privileged resolution (H. Res. 502) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read as follows:

*Resolved,* That on Monday, the 17th day of May 1948, immediately after the approval of the Journal, the House shall stand at recess for the purpose of holding the memorial services as arranged by the Committee on House Administration under the provisions of clause (1) (j) (2) (C) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives. The order of exercises and proceedings of the service shall be printed in the Congressional Record, and all Members shall have leave for 60 legislative days to extend their remarks in the Congressional Record on the life, character, and public service of deceased Members. At the conclusion of the proceedings, the Speaker shall call the House to order and then as a further mark of respect to the memories of the deceased he shall declare the House adjourned.

* * * * *

The resolution was agreed to.

# Memorial Services
in the
# House of Representatives

Eightieth Congress
Second Session

# Memorial Service Program

Prelude, sacred selections (11:30 to 12)
United States Navy Orchestra

Presiding officer----------The Speaker, Hon. Joseph W. Martin, Jr.

Invocation----------The Chaplain, Dr. James Shera Montgomery

Solo: Lead, Kindly Light (Dykes)----------Hon. J. Percy Priest
Representative from the State of Tennessee
At the piano------Musician John Wigent

Scripture reading and prayer----------The Chaplain

Roll of deceased Members
The Clerk of the House of Representatives

Devotional silence.

Address----------Hon. Everett Dirksen
Representative from the State of Illinois

Solo: Going Down the Valley (Fillmore)-------Hon. Harve Tibbott
Representative from the State of Pennsylvania
At the piano------Musician John Wigent

Address----------Hon. Ray J. Madden
Representative from the State of Indiana

Taps----------Musician Frank Scimonelli

Benediction----------The Chaplain

# John Marshall Robsion

## Memorial Services

MONDAY, *May 17, 1948.*

The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives (Mr. Martin) presided.

The Chaplain, Dr. James Shera Montgomery:

*Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hast formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God. For a thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us.* Amen.

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, we have again been saddened since the printing of the program for the memorial exercises today by the passing of our distinguished colleague in the other Chamber, the Honorable JOHN OVERTON, of Louisiana. As you know, the flags are still at half-mast in his memory.

In deference to the wishes of the members of his family, the paying of tribute to him is being deferred until this occasion a year hence, when it is hoped they can be with us.

Hon. J. PERCY PRIEST, accompanied by Musician John Wigent, sang Lead, Kindly Light.

The Chaplain:

Oh, yet we trust that somehow good
  Will be the final goal of ill,
  To pangs of nature, sins of will,
Defects of doubt, and taints of blood;

That nothing walks with aimless feet;
  That not one life shall be destroy'd,
  Or cast as rubbish to the void,
When God hath made the pile complete;

That not a worm is cloven in vain;
  That not a moth with vain desire
  Is shrivell'd in a fruitless fire,
Or but subserves another's gain.

Behold, we know not anything;
  I can but trust that good shall fall
  At last—far off—at last, to all,
And every winter change to spring.

So runs my dream: but what am I?
  An infant crying in the night:
  An infant crying for the light:
And with no language but a cry.

I falter where I firmly trod,
  And, falling with my weight of cares
  Upon the great world's altar-stairs
That slope thro' darkness up to God,

I stretch lame hands of faith, and grope,
  And gather dust and chaff, and call
  To what I feel is Lord of all,
And faintly trust the larger hope.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

And yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Eternal God, our Father, Thou who art ever present to guide and to comfort, increase the faith and hopes which we feel in the temples of our souls. By these tokens grant that at the last we may merit the "Well done, good and faithful servant." We thank Thee for the voice that comes across the centuries to the hearts of all in sorrow: "Be of good cheer." Be Thou the bread of life for our hunger and the water of life for our thirst. Thy servants whom we remember today rest from their labors, and their works do follow them. The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God. In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die, but they are at peace. Vouchsafe unto us the peace and rest which flow from Thy holy presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Our Father which are in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

*And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.* Amen.

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, at this time I should like to read a fitting memorial entitled "The Other Unknown Soldier" by Stanley Kimmel.

THE OTHER UNKNOWN SOLDIER

(By Stanley Kimmel)

Move over, Buddy—
Yeah, it's me, the other unknown soldier.
You didn't think I'd get here, did you?
But I made it.
Yeah, it took a long time,
But I made it.
Say, Buddy, how is it out here,
Out here in Arlington?
Yeah, I been here before,
But not like this.
I was a kid,
My folks brought me to see you.
It was summer,
June, I think;
There was trees and flowers,
And a clear sky—
Just like today, Buddy.
We'd come to Washington,
From a small town out West,
To see the sights;
My folks never travel'd much,
Too poor—
Guess it was the only trip
They ever took.
But me! I'm like you, Buddy,
I been places! Seen things!
I was at Kasserine Pass, Sicily, Anzio, Cassino,

Then Normandy beach head, the Battle of the Hedgerows, and St. Lo,
Yeah, and the Battle of the Bulge, and the Ardennes.
I was at Owen Stanley Mountains, too,
Then Buna, Attu, the Solomons, and Saipan,
Yeah, and Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Leyte, Luzon—
Sure—I'll skip it—
Didn't mean to disturb you,
Talkin' like this.

* * * * *

Listen! Them's footsteps, ain't they?
Some other folks bringin' their kid to see us.
Hope we never have to make room for him.
Sure—I'll skip it—
Didn't mean to disturb you—
Ain't crowdin' you, am I, Buddy?

ROLL OF DECEASED MEMBERS

Mr. Alney E. Chaffee, reading clerk of the House of Representatives, read the following roll:

THEODORE GILMORE BILBO, a Senator from the State of Mississippi: Born October 13, 1877; teacher; farmer; lawyer; attended Peabody College at Nashville, Tenn., Vanderbilt University, and the University of Michigan; member of the State senate, 1908–12; Lieutenant Governor, 1912–16; Governor, 1916–20 and 1928–32; elected to the United States Senate in 1934, 1940, and 1946; died August 21, 1947.

FRED BRADLEY, Eleventh Congressional District of Michigan: Born April 12, 1898; lawyer, businessman, legislator; elected to the Sixty-sixth and four succeeding Congresses; died May 24, 1947.

JOSEPH JEFFERSON MANSFIELD, Ninth Congressional District of Texas: Born February 9, 1861; farmer, lawyer, editor; organized and served as second lieutenant, first lieutenant, and captain in the National Guard of Texas, 1886; prosecuting attorney, mayor, Eagle Lake, Tex., 1888–89; prosecuting attorney, Colorado County, 1892–96; ex officio county superintendent of schools, 1896–1900; judge, Colorado County, 1896–1916; elected to the Sixty-fifth and 15 succeeding Congresses; died July 12, 1947.

CHARLES L. GIFFORD, Ninth Congressional District of Massachusetts: Born March 15, 1871; teacher, realtor, agriculturalist; member State house of representatives, 1912–13; State senator, 1914–19; elected to the Seventieth and 10 succeeding Congresses; died August 23, 1947.

RAYMOND SMILEY SPRINGER, Tenth Congressional District of Indiana: Born April 26, 1882; lawyer, judge; attended Earlham College, Richmond, Ind., and Butler University; graduated from the Indiana Law School in 1904; attorney Fayette County, 1908–14; judge of the thirty-seventh judicial circuit of Indiana, 1916–22; captain of infantry in First World War, 1918; lieutenant colonel, Officers Reserve Corps; elected to the Seventy-sixth and four succeeding Congresses; died August 28, 1947.

PATRICK HENRY DREWRY, Fourth Congressional District of Virginia: Born May 24, 1875; lawyer, banker; attended McCabe's University School, Randolph-Macon College, and the University of Virginia; member of the State senate, 1912–20; delegate to the Democratic State conventions, 1912, 1916, 1920, and 1924; delegate to the Democratic National Convention, 1916; chairman of the Economy and Efficiency Commission of Virginia, 1916–18; chairman of the State advisory board, 1919; member of the Democratic National Congressional Committee, 1923–47, and chairman, 1935–47; ranking member, Committee on Naval Affairs and ranking minority member, Committee on Armed Services; elected to the Sixty-sixth and 14 succeeding Congresses; died December 21, 1947.

JOHN MARSHALL ROBSION, Ninth Congressional District of Kentucky: Born January 2, 1875; teacher, lawyer, banker; attended National Northern University, Ada, Ohio, and Holbrook College, Knoxville, Tenn.; graduated from the National Normal University, Lebanon, Ohio, and Centre College, Danville, Ky.; delegate to the Republican National Convention at Chicago, 1916; elected to the Sixty-sixth and five succeeding Congresses; Member of the United States Senate, under appointment, from January 9, 1930, to November 30, 1930; again elected to the Seventy-fourth and six succeeding Congresses; died February 17, 1948.

ORVILLE ZIMMERMAN, Tenth Congressional District of Missouri: Born December 31, 1880; lawyer; attended Mayfield-Smith Academy at Marble Hill; graduated from State College at Cape Girardeau, 1904, and from the University of Missouri, 1911; served in the United States Army as a private during the First World War; member board of regents, State College, Cape Girardeau, Mo., since 1933; elected to the Seventy-fourth and five succeeding Congresses; died April 7, 1948.

Mrs. NORTON, a Representative from the State of New Jersey, standing in front of the Speaker's rostrum, and aided by Edward H. Funston III, a page of the House of Representa-

tives, placed a memorial rose in a vase as the name of each deceased Member was read by the Clerk.

There followed a period of devotional silence, during which the Members stood.

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. Dirksen].

ADDRESS OF HON. EVERETT M. DIRKSEN

Mr. DIRKSEN. Mr. Speaker, this is very peculiarly our own day. It is our day for personal communion with those who but a short while before were with us in the confraternity of public service.

This is the day on which we pay gracious testimony and loving tribute to those who are now gathered in the democracy of death and who were with us a short while ago. If they could come into the doors of the Chamber this day with what warmth and affection we would greet them.

There would be Senator BILBO and FRED BRADLEY, Judge MANSFIELD and CHARLIE GIFFORD, RAY SPRINGER and PAT DREWRY, Uncle JOHN ROBSION and ORV ZIMMERMAN, whom we more affectionately called ZIM. Somehow there is a strange selectivity in the democracy of transition for no two of those who have departed from us come from the same State. If I were to characterize each by a single word I would say of Senator BILBO that he was a man of deep and abiding conviction; of JOHN OVERTON I would say that in his great heart was a rich and complete devotion; of FRED BRADLEY I would say there was determination and moral robustness; of Judge MANSFIELD I would say that there was about him a spiritual grace which radiated like a strange and lifting aura in all the years that I knew him; of CHARLIE GIFFORD I would say that in his capacious heart was a love so great that it matched the waves of the Atlantic which beat upon the shores of his native Cape Cod. In the heart and in the manner of RAY SPRINGER was meekness and humility that shone as an iridescent light.

PAT DREWRY was a living exemplification of Browning's fascinating lines devoted to sweetness and light. Of ORV ZIMMERMAN it could be said that in his heart was an exuberant hope for this country and his fellow men which was lustrous like June sunshine. Of Uncle JOHN ROBSION, I could always detect a fundamental faith as rugged and redoubtable as the hills of his native Kentucky.

And so in this intensely personal communion today we shall live with them intimately again and take thought and inspiration from their divine personalities that will continue to linger long in this Chamber.

While the spirit of remembrance and the mood of memory is upon us, I think today of a very simple and entrancing story in the Scripture. It is the story of an obscure and nameless woman who brought an alabaster box of precious ointment with which to anoint the Master. To me it is so simple, so compelling, and so appropriate for this occasion.

I am sure you will remember that the Man of Galilee was going to go to the home of Simon the leper in the village of Bethany for a visit and for a meal. How strange that seems to us. Who among us would think of going to the house of a leper to dine and to visit? But Jesus did so and, as I said, Simon the leper lived in Bethany.

It was my privilege to visit the village of Bethany in 1945. What a memorable and historic place it really is. You will recall that Lazarus lived there together with his sisters Mary and Martha. It was on the roadway which leads from Bethany that Martha encountered the Master and from a heavy heart and a disconcert of spirit complained of the fact that Mary had not made the household ready for the coming of the Galilean. And after He had listened patiently to her He said so humbly, "But one thing is needful." And that, of course, was the need of the spirit. It was in this selfsame village then of Bethany where Simon lived, and while he and the Master were at meat, as the Scripture records, there came this unbidden guest. It was a woman. The only char-

acterization we have of her is that she was a sinner. We know little else about her.

Was she tall and stately or was she, perhaps, short statured and robust? We do not know, for the Gospels are silent on this. Did she wear fashionable raiment or was she dressed in ordinary clothing? This we do not know. Did she have dark, lustrous hair and black snapping eyes? Or did she have golden hair which caught the sunshine of the desert? Did she have blue sparkling eyes like those colorful little flowers that grow in profusion on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho? Was her voice harsh or was it soft and melodious? All this we do not know. The records says she was a sinner.

And how simply she came to where the Master was visiting with the leper. There were no press conferences, no press releases, no society column, no eloquent speeches. The record simply says that she came.

How simple it all is. It is so much like the approach in the story of the Good Samaritan who found a man wounded and groaning by the roadside and when the Good Samaritan heard his cry of distress the Scripture says, "He came where he was." It was so simple and so forthright. The coming of the nameless woman to the Master was equally simple.

She brought with her an alabaster box of precious ointment. She stood behind the Man of Galilee, who was doubtless sitting or kneeling at His repast. It was the posture of humility. She washed His feet with her tears. She dried them with her tresses and then from the alabaster box she took the precious ointment of spikenard and anointed Him. I presume we would call it perfume.

There was no conversation. There was no record. There were no remarks to be examined. We have only the record of this simple and humble ministration.

The disciples were there. The Book says they were indignant. I can well imagine that scene. I can particularly imagine Peter, who must have been there, frowning. He was such a sturdy and forthright soul and so practical. The

anointing of the Master with precious perfume offended the practical sense of the disciples. Quickly they translated it into an equation of their own. This ointment might well bring 300 pence and the money could be used for alms and for charity.

That argument has such a familiar ring today. How often have Members of this body been chided, especially during wartime, for going abroad to inspect the progresses of our arms and to observe conditions the better to discharge their responsibilities. How often we were confronted with the argument that the gasoline and the expenses involved might have been put to better and more useful purpose. It was the very kind of an argument that the disciples used long ago as they saw the ministrations of this humble woman.

The Master must have listened earnestly to the argument and to the conversation and then, with simplicity and logic which is like majesty itself, He suddenly said, "Why trouble ye this woman. She hath wrought a good work upon me."

How simple, how compelling, how persuasive that was. He simply said, "She hath wrought a good work upon me." A little later He then said the things that have such rich appeal on this memorial occasion. Very simply did He say that what she had done would be told as a memorial unto her wherever the gospel might be preached.

How simple and compelling is this story because it is the unadorned story of a kindly deed, a very humble service; and there is the promise that it would be a memorial and would reecho down the corridors of time until the end of earth as a memorial to an obscure unnamed woman.

As I think of our departed colleagues today who are gathered in the endless land of dreamless sleep, they, too, brought to their task here an alabaster box of precious ointment consisting of their talent, their love, their affection and devotion, and their abiding desire to serve their people, their colleagues, and their country.

They brought with them the perfume of humble service and these are the services that will live to adorn and to enshrine their memories.

The speeches which we make so quickly, die upon the vesper breeze. The votes on which we and they are recorded will soon be forgotten. It is the human, the humane and kindly little services which are unherald, unsung, and unacclaimed which will be so long remembered on the tablets of the mind and the heart.

There is an amazing immortality about a kindly service, a good deed, a humble ministration. In all parts of the land there will be people who will long remember them for these little things which may seem unimportant to us in the hurly-burly of a controversial atmosphere.

How many veterans they must have helped not only in the recent conflict but in World War I in securing expeditious hospitalization. For this there are no headlines. How many refugees in the old countries and the kinfolks of those refugees in this country they must have helped in securing visas that they might be lifted from the tyrannies of the Old World. For this there is no acclaim. How many aged and indigent persons back home they must have helped and to whom they provided comfort in endeavoring to secure more adequate pensions and assistance. The song of unuttered joy for this will be written on gracious human hearts. How many snarls they must have untangled where folks back home were having difficulty with railroad retirement pensions and social-security benefits. How many fathers and mothers they must have helped in finding the last resting place of some son enshrined in glory on some far-off battlefield. How many fathers and mothers, wives and sweethearts they must have aided in locating kin somewhere abroad in this huge world. How many businessmen they must have helped in finding their way through the labyrinth of a bewildering government. All these and a thousand more are the humble services which marked each day of their service in this body.

And because these were the human and humane things they appeal to the heart and will be long remembered. The letters which they have written over the years by the hundreds to bring comfort and reassurance to humble people back home will be passed from hand to hand long after they have departed. These will bring strange luster to the countenance of people as they show these letters and say, "I got a letter from my Congressman." Yes, these are the things that will live long and be enshrined upon the pulsing tablets of love and memory.

Let us go back for a moment to what the Master said to the disciples when they showed their indignation of the ministrations of this unnamed woman sinner. He said simply, "She hath wrought a good work upon Me." It was objective. It was somebody to somebody. It is the important thing in this compelling story. It is the mark of real service.

Their services were so intensely objective because they were rendered to people, to us, to country, to humble folks who looked upon them as their liaison agents with the Government.

As I think of this quality of objectivity a number of favorite examples come to mind.

One of my favorite characters, who was rather contemporary because he passed on only 30 years ago, was Maj. Gen. William Crawford Gorgas of the United States Army. He was one of that little group who, back in the days when the construction of the Panama Canal was in progress, was persuaded that the Canal could not be built unless yellow fever and malaria were first conquered. So insistent was he in his viewpoint that it offended the construction superintendent on the Canal and he insisted on the dismissal of Gorgas. The letter of dismissal was already on the desk of the President of the United States but wiser counsels prevailed and it was never consummated. William Crawford Gorgas continued to serve until the malarial-bearing mosquito and yellow fever had been conquered. How little we hear about it. How little

acclaim he really received, and yet it was this humble service which had so much to do with the completion of a Federal project for the linking of two great oceans.

The services of General Gorgas did not stop here. He served the people of Peru and other South American countries in conquering plagues and increasing longevity. Even as age was coming upon him he went to The Rand in far-off Africa to subdue the influenza germ. It is no wonder that when he died in London in 1919 a vast concourse of people lined the streets on the occasion of the memorial parade in his honor and when the riderless white horse went by they bowed in reverence and respect to the memory of a truly noble man whose nobility consisted of humble service for the welfare of all mankind.

Some years ago I saw a six-line squib in one of the Washington newspapers announcing the death of Dr. Joseph Goldberger. Perhaps it meant little to many people, but it meant a great deal to me, because I had followed the career of this seemingly obscure man, who was a member of the staff of the United States Public Health Service. It was he who was assigned to explore and find the remedy for that dreaded disease known as pellagra, which had invaded the Southland and not only had taken a great toll of life but enervated and devitalized thousands of people so that they could not carry on their normal pursuits. It was to this problem that Dr. Joseph Goldberger addressed himself. The record of his service is thrilling and dramatic even though it appears so commonplace. He visited hospitals and asylums, orphanages and prison schools, and groups in his relentless pursuit of this awful disease. He imperiled his own life freely and willingly in order to find the cause.

The record shows him in a pullman car at Spartanburg, S. C., consuming capsules made from the offal of persons in the last stages of pellagra. He made capsules of the scales which came from their gaunt and haggard bodies to test the effect upon himself. At long last he found the cause. It was

a vitamin deficiency, and from this a remedy was soon prescribed. There were no headlines for Joseph Goldberger, no gilded books were written about him. There were no demonstrations to acclaim him. His was the humble service of the commonplace, but gratitude for that service will ring down the vistas of time and come as a song of joy from the hearts of the afflicted. He received but six lines in the current press when the soul took flight.

I think also of the humble service rendered by a New Hampshire soldier during the Civil War whose name is unknown to me. Evidently he must have enjoyed a furlough and when he returned to the hills of his native New Hampshire he had time to fashion his own tombstone, possibly because of a premonition of death. On one side of that stone were carved the essential vital statistics and on the other side this self-written epitaph, "This side of my tombstone I dedicate to freedom and union. May they survive and endure forever." Here was a man rendering humble service to this country in an hour of crisis and it will be remembered into the eternity.

Yes; there was objectivity about their service here and it so well illustrates that simple but compelling sentiment which the Master uttered when He said, "She hath wrought a good work upon Me."

They have wrought a good work upon us, upon their kinsmen and their constituency, upon their country and the world. They have wrought a good work and it will be remembered.

The intimate and personal character of this memorial service today is possible because it is the remembrance of the living to those who are now gone. It would fail in its purpose if it did not quicken our spirits. It must enrich us and do something for our own perspective, our behavior, and our viewpoint. What then shall we draw from it all as we stand on the very shadow of their lingering spirits and enjoy the communion of memorial fellowship with them?

Is it not possible that we too—all of us—have come here with our alabaster box of precious ointment consisting of

the talents with which we have been endowed, the love which we bear for our fellowmen, the interest which we have in world welfare and the devotion which we entertain for this our blessed country to be used for the enhancement and progress of our country and the restoration of peace of mind and tranquillity of soul to a restive and tumultuous world?

This perfume of talent we can use if we will to soften the asperities and the severities of life, to modify the hates with which we are often confronted and to so soften our own conduct that it will be as a great spiritual wave and moral force for the Nation and for the world. As we use it lavishly and diligently we cannot help but spill the precious and fragrant perfume of our own talents upon our colleagues and upon everyone with whom we come in contact.

Suppose that for a single month we made a diligent effort to make certain that in our disagreement we would never be captious; that in our differences on principle we would never show petulance; that in resolutely following our own abiding convictions on matters of fundamental policy they would never be tainted by acrimony. Suppose we made a diligent effort to exemplify the humility and meekness and forbearance which marked their service, what a great moral force it would become in softening the dissidences of life and clarifying fundamental viewpoints. All this would redound so richly to the welfare of the world and of our own country.

When all is said and done, my friends, the problems, the questions, and the challenges with which we are confronted from day to day and year to year can scarcely be met by the lawbook and the statute book. So little of what we might formally inscribe upon the legislative parchments will actually meet the challenges of this turbulent era because the problems come from the spirit and the crisis is essentially moral.

You will agree that on so many hands one finds defeatism, but can we reduce anything to the common denominator of

words and language that will meet it. How shall we best solve the group antagonisms which are, after all, a matter of heart and soul? How shall we best meet the moral fatigue which one finds in many places and which is the pardonable and inevitable result of a conflict which tugged at the whole human fabric of the world? How shall we meet the frustrations which are also one of the bitter inheritances of conflict? The prophet Haggai in the Old Testament summed it up in a single phrase when he wrote on the parchments of the Scripture long ago, "Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little." It is the best definition of the frustrated spirit I have ever encountered in the literature of mankind.

But frustration and defeatism and moral fatigue and social cleavages and group antagonisms must all be met if we are to achieve that unity of purpose and action so indispensable to the progress of our country and of the world.

I humbly doubt that the answer—the real answer—can be found in legislative words. We must reach into the citadel of the spirit and find the solutions and we have access to the citadel only in proportion as the heart and the soul find solid moral ground. In proportion as we can bring this approach to our problems we shall again find sweetness and serenity in our national life which will carry us to levels never attained before in any time or generation. This we can find in our sweet and personal communion with their happy memories today. Let me add one more thing to this simple testimony of remembrance. In the Old Testament is the story of Ezekiel released from captivity who was commanded by the Lord to look upon the Valley of Dried Bones. From an anxious heart he asked the Lord whether they could live again. He was bidden to command, and soon with a great clattering roar these bones assembled into skeletons. He asked whether they could be clothed with flesh and was bidden to command and, lo, they were clothed with flesh. He asked whether they could live again and was told to command the four winds to breathe into this great lifeless host

the very breath of life, and, behold, it stood there as a living army.

One of the old versions, as I remember, then carries this simple admonition from the Lord. To Ezekiel He said that those in the Valley of Dried Bones were like an ancient people and that they were lost and dead and without hope. Then he said He would make them a people once more.

He did not say that He would make them two people or a divided people or a cloven people or a turbulent people. He said He would make them a people united in spirit and in effort.

As I survey the contemporary scene, is there anything so important as a restoration of common purpose, of domestic tranquillity, and of happy labor in the cause of an ideal which we call the American dream?

And so, my friends, in this blessed communion with our own let me say in the language of Peter, let us strive for this great goal for which mankind yearns "until we find the day star rising in our hearts." That is the day star of hope and promise for a new glory and a new greatness for ourselves and for the whole world. And so in sweet remembrance we lay upon their divine lingering personalities the memorial laurel of the living to the dead.

Hon. HARVE TIBBOTT, accompanied by Musician John Wigent, sang Going Down the Valley.

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. Madden].

Hon. RAY J. MADDEN, a Representative from the State of Indiana, delivered the following address:

ADDRESS BY HON. RAY J. MADDEN

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, during the last year divine providence visited the Congress and called seven of our Members to the final home. Today we raise our thoughts in reverent memory to those who were selected and answered the

call of their Maker. They have given the last full measure of their devotion that we may continue to enjoy the blessings of liberty and peace. They served their country in this Chamber and they have carried on the good fight for justice under law in our beloved land.

It is natural that in such an hour as this when we commemorate our departed fellow Members, that we look upon the work which they were doing when interrupted by the angel of death. The result of their labors is a precious heritage handed on to us. The work of making a nation's laws is a supremely heavy responsibility that taxes human resources and strength to the fullest. Our absent colleagues understood this well. Were it not so, some of them would still be with us today. The arduous and devastating burdens of congressional war work cost an unprecedented toll of our Members during this most critical period in our Nation's history. These Members were war casualties the same as were the boys in uniform who fell on the battlefield, in the air, and on the seas. But they were willing to make the sacrifice of their time and strength because they understood the sacred import of their legislative work.

To forge the legislation of a people is in a sense a participation in the divine plan of the Almighty, who rules both men and nations. Just laws are fashioned by men, duly elected by their people, but those laws have their source and power in God and we legislators are but His instruments. Great then must be our sense of duty to the Omnipotent Lawgiver and close must be our cooperation with Him in making laws that are in perfect agreement with the norm of right reason and of moral equity and justice. Today we feel confident that the Supreme Legislator has written a blessed finis to the work of those whom we honor at these exercises. During their years of service in this House they cooperated well with Him in legislating for the best interests of His children, the citizens of this Republic.

There is no test of a man's ability in any department of public life more severe than service in the National House of Representatives; there is no place where so little deference is paid to reputation previously acquired, or to eminence won outside; no place where so little consideration is shown for the feelings or the failures of beginners. What a man gains in this Chamber he gains by sheer force of his own character, and if he loses and falls back he must expect no mercy, and will receive no sympathy. It is a field in which the survival of the strongest is the recognized rule, and where no pretense can deceive and no glamour can mislead. Here the real man is discovered, his worth is impartially weighed, his rank is irreversibly decreed. On this day of retrospect and reflection, we can say that our absent brothers stood this test with grandeur. They survived criticism and nobly carried the rewards of success and praise. They took to heart the eternal truths of liberty, obeyed them as the commands of Providence, and accepted the human race as the judge of their fidelity.

Ordinarily we think of Benjamin Franklin as basking in the constant admiration of his countrymen. The fact is that he withstood enough vituperation to reduce many a modern legislator to quivering panic. It was charged that he not only approved the Stamp Act, but framed it; there was talk of setting fire to his house. He saw his oldest friends turn against him; he was scorned in England and distrusted at home—until, just as suddenly he was acclaimed a hero. In 1772 Franklin wrote a letter to his old friend Joseph Galloway, with whom he had shared a resounding political defeat a few years before.

The letter read:

We must not in the course of public life expect immediate approbation and immediate grateful acknowledgement of our services. But let us persevere through abuse and even injury. The internal satisfaction of a good conscience is always present, and time will do us justice in the minds of the people, even of those at present the most prejudiced against us.

Just as the soldier in the line of fire draws inspiration and courage from the love of country burning fiercely in the breasts of his fallen comrades, so do we feel a firmer conviction to carry on without fear or favor as we ponder on the patriotic devotion of those whose memories we revere here today. They indeed have taught us the lesson of true patriotism. Because of their example, we see in love of country a great virtue which is annexed to justice itself. Patriotism is a sincere love and reverence for our country based on a real sense of justice; it is the return of a debt for all that our country has done for us; for all that we have received from it—our citizenship, our freedom, our education, our opportunities, both spiritual and temporal. For all this we owe more than a deep and heartfelt gratitude; we owe our country our love, reverence, obedience, our loyalty, and, if necessary, our life itself. This is the meaning of true patriotism. This is the sacred significance of our flag which today waves silently over the graves of our departed colleagues of this honorable assembly.

There is another and even more profound significance in our meeting here today on this solemn occasion. We lay aside for a time the manifold tasks and labors which go into the making of our Nation's laws. There is a pause in the daily debate and in the interchange of views which at times express different and contrary opinions and convictions. We temporarily halt appropriation of the sums that we deem necessary to produce the greatest possible benefit for our people and for the peoples of other countries who stand in dire need and danger of losing both life and liberty.

In many parts of the world the freedom of the individual has been set back by centuries. There the idea survives that the individual is the creature of the state—that he exists for the state—that he has no rights except what the state gives him and can take away. America has been a living revolt against that pagan idea ever since freedom's greatest document was written and guaranteed that "All men are endowed

by their Creator with certain unalienable rights and that among these rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Today we join together in reconsecrating our lives and our abilities to that noble work for which Congress has been dedicated by the founding fathers since the beginning of this Republic. They were men of faith, men who felt a deep sense of responsibility to the God of nations and of peoples. They were men whose relations toward God were not unlike those of children toward their father—love tempered with awe, and obedience joined with a healthy fear of merited punishment. Convictions such as these have been expressed in this Chamber countless times since the infancy of our country. The pages of the Congressional Record are replete with sane and sober reflections on the absolute necessity of unswerving loyalty to the divine law which guides all men in general and legislators in particular. Under this moral law our Nation has grown great and has prospered. Today we rededicate ourselves to those same sacred convictions, to that same eternal moral law. We do so, well aware that without this faith in God and in His unchangeable moral law, all our efforts here are vain and purposeless.

Without this faith upon what would we hope?

Without this faith our very presence here at this solemn memorial service would be meaningless.

Without this faith why should we labor and sacrifice for others?

Without this faith the brotherhood of man would be reduced to a soft and sentimental altruism.

Without this faith we might logically revert to the level of the unthinking brute creation and let selfishness and fear and blood and rapine be our only law.

Without this faith we would let force and suspicion and hate determine our relations with our fellow men.

Such is the inevitable effect of a philosophy of life without faith in God. Such godlessness would indeed have been

anathema to our founding fathers and to the men who since 1789 have sat in the House of Representatives.

In a short time we shall again take up the work of yesterday. Let not the new resolve which this memorial hour affords pass away. They who have left us during the past year have already received their reward from the hands of a just and merciful Judge, before whom each of us will one day stand. We know that He has dealt with them in accord with His great mercy. "Blessed are ye who do the will of My Father." Blessed—happy shall you be. A heaped-up happiness of unending duration. That is the true immortality. That is the true end of man. Every other kind of immortality is but a mockery.

Monuments will decay, buildings will disappear, portraits fade, and words written and spoken are soon forgotten or lost in dusty tomes. But the deeds of men do live after them—not for a few passing years but for all eternity because they are written imperishably in the Book of Life held in the hands of the Angel of God. True immortality of men is unending life with their Creator. May the immortal souls of our fellow Congressmen whom we memorialize today, enjoy forever the reward of blissful rest and peace.

Musician Frank Scimonelli sounded taps.

The Chaplain pronounced the following benediction:

Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling and represent you faultless before the presence of His glory with great joy, unto the only wise God, our Saviour, the glory and majesty both now and forever. Amen.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the provisions of House Resolution 502, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Members, the Chair declares the House adjourned until tomorrow at 11 o'clock a. m.

Thereupon (at 1 o'clock and 8 minutes p. m.) the House, pursuant to its previous order, adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 18, 1948, at 11 o'clock a. m.

# Memorial Addresses
on
# John Marshall Robsion

# Memorial Addresses

## Remarks by Representative Jennings

*Of Tennessee*

Mr. JENNINGS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, February 17, JOHN MARSHALL ROBSION, in Barbourville, Ky., at the home of a friend, passed away.

Told by his physician that his heart was in a weakened condition and that he should not see visitors, he would not deny the people who loved him, and they came to him to the very last.

JOHN M. ROBSION was a great Kentuckian, an illustrious American.

In him death chose a shining mark. His hold upon the affections and confidence of his people was unequaled by any man who preceded him in the Congress from eastern Kentucky. By years of unselfish service he earned and held the boundless trust, the devoted friendship, and abiding love of his people.

I first knew him as a lawyer in 1908, while he and I were attorneys in the neighboring towns of Jellico, Tenn., and Barbourville, Ky. He was an able lawyer. Learned in the law, he had what lawyers term a "legal mind." Instinctively, he went to the heart of a lawsuit. Before a jury he was irresistible. He knew human nature, was a master of the logic of the human heart, and spoke the language of his people.

Before his journey ended he walked with the great of this earth, but he never lost the common touch. With pride he referred to the fact that his father was a tenant farmer and that as a boy and as a young man he knew what it was

to eat his bread in the sweat of his face. What was the source of his strength? He is the answer to that question.

He sprang from the plain whence have come the world's immortals, from the ranks of the red-blooded, rugged, middle class. As a boy he attended the common schools; as a young man he taught school and with his earnings completed his literary and legal education.

He was diligent in his business and did with his might whatever his hand found to do. He knew that in every controversy, political or legal, the determinative, controlling factors are living men and women.

I knew him for more than 40 years. He was eminently successful as a lawyer. There was no better trial lawyer in Kentucky. He was a forceful and effective speaker. Whether in the courtroom, on the stump, or in the Congress, he was a foeman worthy of any man's steel. He had few equals and no superior. He made a living for himself and loved ones. He did more. He made a life that was a benediction to all who came within its radiance. The world is better for his having lived in it. He lived a full life. Devoted to his family, loyal to his friends, a great, fearless public servant, no abler nor more popular man ever represented his people in Congress.

He was a statesman. He loved his congressional duties and brought to their performance a wide knowledge of public affairs.

He was never defeated in his races for the House. Elected in November 1918 to the Sixty-sixth Congress, he was five times reelected to the Sixty-seventh, Sixty-eighth, Sixty-ninth, Seventieth, and Seventy-first Congresses. He was appointed to the United States Senate on January 9, 1930, to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator Frederick M. Sockett. He was elected to the Seventy-fourth, Seventy-fifth, Seventy-sixth, Seventy-seventh, Seventy-eighth, Seventy-ninth, and Eightieth Congresses, serving in the Con-

gress more than a quarter of a century, during which time this country fought two world wars.

A member of the committee on committees, the national Republican congressional committee, the steering committee of his party in the House, and the Committee on the Judiciary, he played a large part in formulating and guiding the policies of his party and in writing the laws of the land.

A devout and consistent member of the Christian Church, for years a Sunday-school teacher, he was a constant student of the Bible. On more than one occasion, on going to his office here in Washington, I found him deeply engrossed in the study of the Bible. His knowledge of it was profound. He was especially fond of reciting the Twenty-third Psalm and delighted in dwelling on its beauty and majesty, its faith and promise.

He gave himself without stint to the performance of his duties as a Congressman. No service to his people was too small to enlist his best efforts. No task was too great for him to tackle. He put his heart and mind into his work. He mastered every subject. In his discussion of legislation he was able always to give reasons for his stand on any measure. He carried on a voluminous correspondence with his people, answering every letter he received.

He had many visitors from his State. I never saw a man more considerate or kindly in taking care of a constituent. They were under his watchcare and devotion from the time they entered his office until they departed. He loved and served them with all his mind, heart, strength, and soul.

For 25 years he wove into the warp and woof of national legislation the very fiber of his mind and soul. At his death he was engaged as the chairman of the Committee on Revision of the Laws in the revision of the United States Code. So far as he finished this work, it will be his monument.

He was ever alert to the interests of the veterans and to the welfare of the working people. All the people had in

him an advocate and champion ever zealous in their service.

His sympathetic understanding gave him the key that unlocked human hearts. Kentuckians welcomed him into their heart of hearts and into their homes.

He had a great fund of human interest stories with which he illustrated his discourse and arguments. He was apt in illustration, keen in perception. His industry was tireless. His whole life was characterized by his eagerness to learn and his ability to grow. He was wise in the ways of the world. No dreamer was he. His wisdom increased with the years. His was the homely, homey philosophy of the common man.

With him the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. From his boyhood till the last summons came "he increased in stature and wisdom."

The truth, the wisdom, the imagery of the Bible ran through his discourse and through his speeches like threads of gold through cloth of silver.

In 1940, I attended the opening of the Republican campaign in Somerset, Ky. While waiting for my train, Judge R. C. Tartar, a devoted friend of Representative ROBSION, stated to me that ROBSION never lost a friend and was always making new friends. He then related the following incident. He said, "I was driving down a country road during one of ROBSION'S campaigns and noticed someone had written with a red pencil on one of ROBSION'S pictures posted on a tree near the roadside. I was curious to see what the writing was so I got out of my car and walked over to the picture. These are the words that had been written on the picture—'JOHN M. ROBSION, the same today, yesterday and forever,'" Judge Tartar then said, "Those words so aptly characterized the man and the deathless love his people cherished for him, I took it down, framed it and hung it on the wall in my office."

As he lay in state in Barbourville on the day of the funeral thousands of friends from all parts of Kentucky and from the farthest reaches of his district passed in an endless proces-

sion and gazed for the last time on his face. And as they looked on the tender peace that dwelt on the face of their dead friend, strong men wept as if they had stood by the lifeless form of their father or mother.

He left surviving him, his devoted widow, his son, Maj. John M. Robsion, an attorney of Louisville, Ky., and his daughter, Mrs. Henry Gordon Edmunds, of Washington, D. C.

JOHN M. ROBSION is not dead. He lives in the hearts of his loved ones, in the memory and affections of his friends who are legion, and in his good works that live after him.

At the height of his fame, his mind unimpaired, he glided gently out at ebb of tide.

He went as he would have chosen to go, not after a lingering illness of weakness and pain, but at the close of a day's work, in the faith and the courage of Tennyson's deathless words:

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me,
And may there be no moaning of the bar
When I put out to sea.

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark,
And may there be no sadness of farewell
When I embark.

For tho' from out our bourne of time and place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.

## Remarks by Representative Michener

*Of Michigan*

Mr. MICHENER. Mr. Speaker, there was genuine sadness and sorrow in our ranks when we received the news that our distinguished colleague, Representative JOHN M. ROBSION, had suddenly answered the final summons. In apparent good health, he had left Washington for a few days in his district; however, the manner of his demise was, I think, in keeping with that which he would have desired. When JOHN ROBSION left us, he took a man's life with him.

Born in a modest home in a Kentucky rugged, mountainous environment, he was a symbol of the heights to which those of humble beginnings may rise in our America. He was always proud of his district, and especially so of the type of people whom he had the honor to represent in Washington. Many a time he reminded the Congress of the early settlements in his community and stressed the fact that most of his constituents had lived in Kentucky for generations. That type of people found expression in the life, the character, and the utterances of this outstanding citizen; lawyer, Judge, Senator, Representative, and statesman.

Always fearless and courageous, he was a great orator and one of the most persuasive debaters in the Congress. He was a splendid lawyer and an advocate par excellence. He had an outstanding record as a trial lawyer and, in addition to that, he was a legal fundamentalist.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. ROBSION and I were first elected to the Sixty-sixth Congress; that is, we entered these halls at the same time. A perfunctory acquaintanceship soon ripened into genuine friendship, and his advice and counsel have meant much to me down through the years. We served together on the Committee on the Judiciary. As chairman of

that committee, I relied much upon Judge ROBSION, who was chairman of Subcommittee No. 1. His kindly word and his keen sense of humor made him loved and respected by his committee colleagues as well as the committee staff with whom he was a favorite.

Judge ROBSION was on the program of the annual meeting of the American Bar Association in Cleveland last September. Later it was my privilege to talk with Mr. Chief Justice Vinson, formerly of Kentucky, who also addressed the convention. The Chief Justice was an admirer of our departed friend and told me of the splendid address made by our colleague and the comments concerning it by other distinguished lawyers attending the convention. In short, he said: "As a Kentuckian, I was proud of JOHN ROBSION the lawyer."

I was not in Washington the day Judge ROBSION'S death was announced, at which time many of our Members spoke in memory of him. I want to add my tribute at this time.

Another mighty oak has fallen and the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States of America are poorer. To his family JOHN ROBSION has left a splendid heritage, and the memory of this good and great man will linger with us long.

## Remarks by Representative Martin

*Of Massachusetts*

Mr. MARTIN of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, our hearts are saddened each time we think of the departure of JOHN MARSHALL ROBSION, our Republican colleague from Barbourville, Ky., who served with us so long and so well, but passed away last February 17.

JOHN ROBSION was from a famous district—Kentucky's Republican Ninth—and he made it more famous in the councils of the National Legislature. A Republican from beginning to end, he numbered his friends in the thousands among both Republicans and Democrats and among the rich and the poor. He was, as all his friends agree, able to walk with kings, but could keep the common touch. His speeches here in the well of the House rang with sincerity, honesty, justice—he spoke of the simple things of life and thrilled us with his ability to penetrate to the heart of an issue in common every-day words.

JOHN ROBSION looked like a son of the American soil, as he was, and he was proud of his background and heritage. There was about him no sham, no false show, no tinkling pride. He knew that without charity, man becomes as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. JOHN ROBSION had faith, hope, and charity in full measure and he exhibited each quality like a bright jewel for all who would come and see.

He was born and reared on a farm and attended the common schools of Knox County, Ky. He received a degree from the National Normal University of Lebanon, Ohio, and also attended the Ohio Northern University, of Ada, Ohio, and Holbrook College, at Knoxville, Tenn., and he received the degree of bachelor of laws from Centre College, Danville, Ky.

After teaching in the public schools of Kentucky and at Union College, Barbourville, Ky., he engaged in the practice of law. He was a delegate to the Republican National Conventions in 1916, 1928, 1936, 1940, and 1944. He was elected to the Sixty-sixth, Sixty-seventh, Sixty-eighth, Sixty-ninth, Seventieth, and Seventy-first Congresses, and was appointed to the United States Senate on January 9, 1930, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of the Honorable Frederic M. Sackett. After serving out his term in the Senate, JOHN ROBSION again ran for the House of Representatives. He was elected to the Seventy-fourth Congress and reelected to every subsequent Congress until his death.

A crowning achievement of his life, and one that revealed the esteem with which he was held in his own country and among his own people, was his election without opposition in 1946. He received 60,000 complimentary votes.

We who worked with, and knew, JOHN ROBSION intimately know best the deep void created by his untimely passing. He was one of the noblest representatives of them all, and people throughout the Nation today will pay tribute with us to him, as they mourned with us at news of his passing.

## Remarks by Representative Graham

*Of Pennsylvania*

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the Record, I include the following article by Anita Pollitzer, from Equal Rights for January–February 1948:

JOHN MARSHALL ROBSION: FRIEND AND LEADER

(By Anita Pollitzer, chairman of the National Woman's Party)

When Congressman JOHN MARSHALL ROBSION, of Kentucky, passed away on February the seventeenth, advocates of the equal rights amendment lost the leadership of a great friend in Congress. As ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee, as chief sponsor of the equal rights amendment, and as chairman of the subcommittee of the Judiciary charged with reporting the amendment to the House of Representatives, Mr. ROBSION was earnest and intent on the passage of the amendment in this session. We will greatly miss his wisdom and personal legislative guidance.

From the time he consented to act as our chief sponsor, he built solidly. Early in the session, he wrote to friends of the amendment inviting them to join him in its introduction. In response to this, 102 Members of the House of Representatives are officially cooperating in securing passage of the amendment. Through the reorganization period of the first session of this Congress, he carefully planned so that the amendment would receive early consideration in this session. To this end he scheduled an early hearing. This was to have been on February 18. Congressman ROBSION passed away on the evening before the day scheduled for the hearing.

Those of us who had the privilege of working closely with Mr. ROBSION on the amendment deeply appreciated his ability, his sense of justice, his great understanding, and his kindliness. The cases he would cite to show the obvious justice of the amendment came from his own experience in the practice of the law and his observations of inequality. In a speech which he read into the Congressional Record of January 29, after quoting support of the amendment from high places, he said with the down-to-earth realism which so characterized him:

"I know a man, not far away from my home, who had a wife and 12 children, ranging from a few months to 16 years of age. They

were all at home. They owned no land, no personal property except their meager clothing and household goods and one fine Jersey cow. The mother was responsible for the family having one cow. The cow was the mainstay of the family. The father traded that fine Jersey cow for an old second-hand Ford car. No persuasion could have induced that mother to have made such an improvident trade. But under the laws of Kentucky the father had the legal right to swap the family cow for this old Ford."

There was not a particle of pretense about Mr. ROBSION, and when he said: "We should, without further delay, submit to the States for ratification this constitutional amendment and grant equal justice under the law," that was what he meant.

Throughout Mr. ROBSION'S political life he took pleasure in aiding the cause of women. His first national political responsibility came in 1916, when he was delegate to the Republican National Convention and was chosen as a member of its resolutions committee. Alice Paul was there, leading the demand of women for a suffrage plank in that platform. She has often recalled how Mr. ROBSION at once pledged his support of the suffrage plank, voting in the resolutions committee and in the convention of 1916 for this first party plank to declare for woman suffrage—an experience which undoubtedly caused him to see the significance of his party's present plank favoring submission of the equal-rights amendment.

Last July, at a memorable garden party at national headquarters arranged by Cecil Norton Broy, political chairman, in honor of the congressional sponsors of the amendment, Mr. ROBSION, in a rousing speech, prophesied that in the fight for the amendment's passage we would soon "rejoice in triumph."

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AN APPRECIATION

(By Betty Gram Swing, cochairman, political committee, National Woman's Party)

With the passing of JOHN M. ROBSION, Congressman from Kentucky, the National Woman's Party loses one of its most courageous champions. He was a special friend of its members, an eloquent advocate of the equal-rights amendment. He liked to recall his introduction to their campaign for equality. It was in 1916 when, as member of the platform committee of the Republican Convention in Chicago, he heard the pleas of a group drenched with rain and shivering with cold. They had been parading during a storm and had left the line of march to make their pleas before the committee. With a twinkle in his eye, he often related this episode and

how he was captivated by the fervor and valor of this group. Two years later, when he came to Washington as a Congressman, one of the first votes he cast was for the nineteenth amendment enfranchising women.

Mr. ROBSION was known to his friends as "that mountain Congressman." He resembled the Great Emancipator in more than appearance, like Lincoln, being rangy and 6 feet 4 in height. Born in a one-room log cabin, orphaned at 12, he worked his way through school, graduated from National Normal University, taught school, practiced law, and entered politics. He was elected to Congress in 1918 and was one of the few Republicans able to hold his seat from a normally Democratic State.

He held some of the most important committee assignments, among them that of the Judiciary Committee, and as chairman of its subcommittee, which handled the equal-rights amendment, was in a key position to guide the destiny of its passage through the Eightieth Congress. He had a clear vision of the importance of extending and guaranteeing under the law democracy to half the population of this country. He felt that the year 1948 was not only crucial but dramatic. He said it was the year of destiny for women's freedom, that it was crucial because of the necessity of recording the enormous gains in support of the amendment before the coming election, dramatic—because of the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the first equal-rights meeting ever held in any country in the world. Mr. ROBSION was determined to culminate the campaign in victory.

But he died the day before the scheduled hearing of the equal-rights amendment before the Committee on the Judiciary of the House, on the very eve of success.

Like Lincoln, who led the great fight to end the enslavement of a race, Mr. ROBSION led the fight for similar freedom and guaranties for women. All women in the United States owe profound gratitude to this man, "that mountain Congressman" who dared to fight for their freedom. We have lost one of our wisest counselors and one of our best friends.

## Remarks by Representative Reed

*Of Illinois*

Mr. REED of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, JOHN M. ROBSION will long be remembered by those who served with him in the many Congresses of which he was a Member. His courage and independence won for him the admiration of his colleagues; his courtesy and kindly bearing, their esteem; and his profound knowledge of the law, their respect.

He was a most valuable member of the Committee on the Judiciary. During many of the tedious and exacting hearings of our committee he contributed by advice, argument, and searching questions to witnesses in a very substantial way toward obtaining the information necessary to the proper formulation of many laws. He was intensely interested in the revision and codification of the United States statutory law—a project that has progressed materially under his leadership. Our committee has, indeed, lost one of its most faithful, energetic, and conscientious Members. Kentucky has sent many distinguished statesmen to represent it in Washington. JOHN M. ROBSION measures up conformably with them all. A man of lofty principles, he hewed his course and followed it to the end. He kept the faith. And when the inevitable messenger with the inverted torch beckoned him to depart, he passed on to be crowned with the triumphant benediction, "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

# Proceedings
in the
# House of Representatives

# Proceedings in the House

THURSDAY, *February 19, 1948.*

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. Morton].

Mr. MORTON. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday last at 6:30 p. m., death came to our good friend and distinguished colleague, JOHN MARSHALL ROBSION.

His was a long and distinguished career of public service. That career was a great enrichment of the political heritage of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

To me his sudden passing was a great personal shock. In my short time here he had been both friend and father. I share with those thousands of Kentuckians and hundreds here in Washington who knew and loved him a deep feeling of loss. He will be missed. He will be missed for his keen judicial mind, he will be missed for his ready good humor, for his graciousness, his friendliness, and the stalwart human qualities which he so well portrayed and which made him the epitome of the fine character of the mountain folks whom he so ably represented.

He was first elected to the Congress in November of 1918. At that time with the exception of one or two city streets, there was not 1 mile of paved road in the entire district. An automobile was a useless luxury. He campaigned on foot and on horseback. His familiar figure with his long stride up and down the creek beds and in the hollows of that section of Kentucky became a symbol which will always live in the memory of those, his people. I have enjoyed the warm hospitality of JOHN ROBSION'S home, both here in Washington and in Barbourville. My sympathy goes out to the members of his family, his wife, who for so many years has shared

in the heartaches and happiness of his long political career, his daughter who lives here in Washington and who inherited from her father his genuine, gracious friendliness, and his son, now a distinguished member of the bar in my own home city, who also had an outstanding military career, and his grandson, who is this year completing his secondary education here in the city of Washington. I hope that their sorrow, and the pain of their sorrow, can be to some degree lessened by the knowledge that his was a life of service, and by the further knowledge that their grief will be shared by the thousands who knew and loved him.

I now yield to the distinguished Speaker of the House.

(Mr. ARENDS assumed the chair as Speaker pro tempore.)

Mr. MARTIN of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the death of JOHN ROBSION deprives the Nation of a wise and able statesman, the Congress of one of its oldest and best-informed Members. To me his death means the loss of one of my closest and most valued friends and counselors.

JOHN ROBSION was a picturesque personality. With all his great heart and soul he was devoted to his country. He upheld the fine traditions of an American statesman.

Kentucky has contributed many great men to the Nation, and well up on the list must be inscribed the name of our beloved colleague.

His untimely death comes as a great shock. He will ever linger in the memories of those of us who were privileged to call him friend.

To his family in their hour of grief goes the sympathy and condolences of every Member of Congress.

(The SPEAKER resumed the chair.)

Mr. MORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. McCormack].

Mr. McCORMACK. Mr. Speaker, the death of JOHN ROBSION is a very sad loss to the House. I feel his loss keenly because I was always deeply impressed not only by his out-

standing record of service but his noble character as well. He was a man of great capacity and of sincere devotion to the principles that he believed in; a man devoted to his duty. It was with the greatest of sorrow that I learned of his passing. His passing is a great loss to this House, his home State of Kentucky, and to the Nation.

I join with the Kentucky delegation and his countless friends in expressing deep sympathy to his widow, his son, and daughter in their great loss. I know that we who served with and knew JOHN ROBSION will miss him very much in the years to come.

Mr. MORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. Halleck].

Mr. HALLECK. Mr. Speaker, JOHN ROBSION was one of my very best friends. I have always looked upon him as the embodiment of the American way of life. He was a man of the people. He understood people. He was one of them.

JOHN was born and raised on a farm in Kentucky. He attended the common schools there. Fired with ambition and determination, he went to college. They were small colleges, but there he obtained training in the fundamentals of arts, sciences, and the law that kept him on sound ground in all his thinking and work.

He also taught school in Kentucky, and in that work, as here in Congress, in his quiet but effective way, he has left "footprints on the sands of time" to guide all who come after him.

JOHN served with me on the Republican congressional committee. He was loyal to his party and strived to put his party's principles into effect. But he always placed his country above his party. That is why he is a truly great American.

I shall miss him. He will be particularly missed for the outstanding work he has done as a member of the Committee on the Judiciary. He was loved by all. How highly he was regarded by the people of his district is shown by the fact

that he was elected to this Congress without opposition and received 60,000 complimentary votes. I hope his people know that we, here in Congress, regard him as highly.

Mr. MORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York [Mr. Reed].

Mr. REED of New York. Mr. Speaker, a great and good man, a true patriot, a Christian gentleman, and a great statesman has been taken from our midst. I refer to Hon. JOHN M. ROBSION, of Kentucky. I deeply mourn his loss. The Nation has lost a patriotic and a constructive legislator. Hon. JOHN M. ROBSION has served his Nation, his State, and the good and loyal people of his congressional district with extraordinary ability and perfect fidelity.

It is now more than a quarter of a century since our good friend entered the Congress of the United States as a Representative from the State of his birth. My friend JOHN, as he was affectionately known, entered Congress at the same time I did in 1918. We became great personal friends. It was only a few years ago that I asked him to address a large crowd in my district. The people who then heard him still speak of him with admiration and affection.

I know that from the day he crossed the threshold of this great legislative body he was recognized as a man of noble character. Few men who have served in this Congress were better grounded in the law and especially the fundamental principles of the Federal Constitution.

It was well known to the men in this House that JOHN never lost an opportunity to fight for the preservation and integrity of the fundamental principles of individual liberty upon which this Republic is grounded and which have made it the leading nation on earth.

The patriotic record, the legislative record, and the kindly service rendered by this great colleague of ours are all a part of a monument of achievement of which his constituents and all liberty-loving people in this country may well be proud.

Whenever we think of our departed friend—

Let us lift up our hearts in gratitude for the wise and good who have gone before us, who have striven even unto death to establish equity, justice, and good will upon earth, into the fruit of whose labor we have entered. Let us give thanks for fathers and elder brothers who have beheld the vision of a righteous nation, into whose goodly heritage we have come.

And let us be worthy to stand in their place in the time allotted to us, that with steadfast courage and unwavering hope we may fulfill the tasks put into our hands to do.

I wish to take this occasion to extend to Mrs. Robsion and the other members of Judge ROBSION'S family the heartfelt sympathy of Mrs. Reed and me in this time of their great bereavement.

Mr. MORTON. I thank the gentleman from New York and yield to the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. Spence].

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the entire delegation from Kentucky when I say we were deeply shocked and grieved to hear of the sudden death of our distinguished colleague, JOHN MARSHALL ROBSION.

Death came to him without casting its shadow before, it came as a thief in the night. After visiting a friend's home and having dinner with him he lay down to the sleep from which he never awoke.

JOHN MARSHALL ROBSION had a remarkable career. He came here first in the Sixty-sixth Congress, and he has been a Member of this body ever since, except a short interlude in which he was appointed United States Senator by the Governor of Kentucky. He was a man of fine ability and an able lawyer; but his personal characteristics endeared him to his friends. He was a sociable man. He loved his fellow men and liked to be with them. I have been entertained in his home and it breathed a spirit of hospitality and welcome. He was the chieftain of his party in the mountains of Kentucky and there were none to challenge him. He had a remarkable strength amongst his people which was not evident

so much in the final elections where any member of his party would have no difficulty in carrying that district, but was shown in the primary elections where for years he utterly overwhelmed his adversaries. He had to a peculiar degree the affection of the people whom he represented; and on Saturday there will be a great outpouring of those people from the hills of his district to pay their last tribute of respect and admiration to our friend, JOHN ROBSION. May his soul rest in peace, and may he receive the eternal reward that comes to the faithful and the just.

I wish to extend to his devoted wife and son and daughter my deepest sympathy in their hour of sorrow.

Mr. MORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky and I yield to the gentleman from Vermont [Mr. Plumley].

Mr. PLUMLEY. Mr. Speaker, JOHN MARSHALL ROBSION, one of Kentucky's most distinguished sons, is dead.

He was born, lived, and died in that State he so dearly loved and served with such distinction.

Like Lincoln—

> He went down
> As when a lordly cedar, green with boughs,
> Goes down with a great shout upon the hills,
> And leaves a lonesome place against the sky.

No warning foreshadowed his going. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and in his sleep he passed out of the turmoil of this world into that peace perpetual where go the souls of just men made perfect.

His judgment was profound, his vision clear and unclouded; he understood his people and they understood and honored him. He left behind him no great accumulation of worldly possessions, but bequeathed to his family and his friends that greatest of all earthly legacies, "an honored name, the memory of earnest deeds well done."

## JOHN MARSHALL ROBSION

In the words of the poet Malloch:

Time brings not death, it brings but changes;
I know he rides, but rides afar,
Today some other planet ranges
And camps tonight upon a star
Where all his other comrades are.

For there were those who rode before him,
As there are those he leaves behind;
Although from us time's changes bore him,
Out there our comrade still will find
The kinship of the comrade mind.

Time brings us change and leaves us fretting;
We weep when every comrade goes—
Perhaps too much, perhaps forgetting
That over yonder there are those
To whom he comes and whom he knows.

I could not hold our loss too lightly;
God knows, and he, how deep the pain;
But, friends, I see still shining brightly
The brightest link in all our chain
That links us with a new domain.

Time breaks no circle such as this,
For this I swear, because believing;
However hurt, however grieving,
However much a friend we miss
Between the worlds is no abyss.

For friendship binds the worlds together—
World over there, world over here.
From earth to heaven is the tether
That brings the earth and heaven near
And makes them both a bit more dear.

Not weaker now our chain, but stronger;
In all our loss and all our ill
We now shall look a little longer
At ev'ry star above the hill
And think of him, and have him still.

Whatever vales we yet may wander,
What sorrow come, what tempest blow,
We have a friend, a friend out yonder,
To greet us when we have to go—
Out yonder someone that we know.

To all eternity he binds us;
He links the planet and the star;
He rides ahead, the trail he finds us
And where he is and where we are
Will never seem again so far.

Mr. MORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. Rankin].

Mr. RANKIN. Mr. Speaker, it was a sad shock to me when I learned of the sudden death of our distinguished friend, Hon. JOHN M. ROBSION, who had been a member of the "loyal opposition" in this House practically ever since I came here, at the beginning of the Harding administration.

I agree with the statement that he was a Christian gentleman, a true patriot, and a real American who always stood by his convictions.

As I said, he was a Member of the House when I came here in 1921. When I think of him and reflect upon those receding days, there seems to come trooping before me those splendid men who served with us in the Sixty-seventh Congress.

I can see Speaker Fred Gillett, one of the fairest, finest, and most capable men who ever presided over the Congress of the United States.

I can see the figure of James R. Mann, of Illinois, the ablest parliamentarian with whom I have ever served; and next to him, on our side, I see the figure of Charles R. Crisp, also one of the ablest parliamentarians who ever served in either House of Congress. I can hear the eloquence of Will Rodenberg, of Illinois, and the manly voice of Claude Kitchen, of North Carolina, one of the ablest debaters our country has ever produced. I can see the stalwart figures of Joseph W. Byrns, of Tennessee; Will Bankhead, of Alabama; Ben Humphreys, of Mississippi; and a large number of other notable figures who have passed to the Great Beyond.

Now my friend, JOHN ROBSION, has joined them in their eternal voyage to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns.

I am reminded of Thomas Moore's immortal lines:

When I remember all
The friends so linked together,
I've seen around me fall,
Like leaves in wintry weather,
I feel like one
Who treads alone
Some banquet hall deserted,
Whose lights are fled,
Whose garlands dead,
And all but he departed.

Mr. MORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. Rizley].

Mr. RIZLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was terribly shocked and sorely grieved when I picked up a newspaper at the airport at midnight Tuesday, when I returned from Oklahoma, to note the death of my good friend, JOHN ROBSION. When I came here, a short 8 years ago, he was one of the first Members of this House to welcome me. He came over and sat down by me, introduced himself, and told me something of the House of Representatives. He loved the House of Representatives. At that time there were only four of us on this side of the aisle from south of the Mason and Dixon's line, and we sometimes referred jokingly to ourselves as "the Republicans from Little Dixie." He was a great lawyer. I have talked with him by the hour about his many experiences as a lawyer. He was a sound legislator. But, over and above his ability as a lawyer and his great ability as a legislator and a statesman, he was a good man. That is why the people of Kentucky loved him. That is why, after all, we in the House of Representatives loved him. He was a sturdy American. He believed in the things that made America. He was tolerant. He was honest. I do not think there has been a day hardly since I have been here from the first day that JOHN ROBSION and I have not visited together some time during the day. His sudden passing is a terrific loss to me personally because I had learned to lean heavily on him for counsel and advice.

JOHN ROBSION was absolutely fearless. He belonged to that section of the country that produces God-fearing and courageous men. He could not be bought. He could not be intimidated. He believed that one man speaking the truth today would tomorrow be the majority. He loved his family, he loved his neighbors. He loved Kentucky and he loved America. Indeed a sturdy oak in the forest of genuine Americanism has fallen. My love and sympathy in this trying hour go to his wife and all the members of his family. It seems to me to be almost providential that he was called from his labor to rest while at his home in Kentucky during a brief respite from his duties in Washington. He would have had it that way. His life fully exemplifies that Scriptural injunction that "a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches." His memory will be long cherished by those of us who knew him and loved him.

Mr. MORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. Graham].

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, for 10 years it was my privilege to serve with JOHN MARSHALL ROBSION on the Committee on the Judiciary, and in those 10 years, in the close intimacy of that committee, particularly that of subcommittees, I came to know and love this man. In writing the history of the Committee on the Judiciary not long ago, I frequently consulted with him about some of the great men that had come out of the State of Kentucky, and these things were evident in the character of Mr. ROBSION. First was his intense pride in his own community and in his own great State. He would sit literally by the hour and tell me of the great characters that had contributed to that State and its progress and its standing in the Union. Next was his deep humility and pride; the fact that he was born in Kentucky; that he came out of its rock-ribbed mountains; that his had been a hard struggle. He had no apologies to offer to any man. At heart he was an intense American. I never knew

a better one. The thing that both pleased and surprised me, being a fellow lawyer, was his deep interest in the law. It fell to his duty to preside over the revision of the codes that are now passing through our hands, and to these he brought a most intelligent supervision. His wide grasp of the law and his intimate knowledge of the problems involved can hardly be overemphasized here today. Some day the great legal profession of America will thank JOHN MARSHALL ROBSION for his contribution to the revision of the Code of the United States.

The next thing I came to know about him was in the intimacy of the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization. Probably no more difficult problem confronts us in this day. Here again you could see the genuine Americanism of this man, his desire to keep America American, as we say, in the American way. I often listened to him give his homely anecdotes and stories of the Kentucky mountains, and I thought of the great Lincoln and the manner of his illustration, and how well that mantle had fallen on this man who was to carry forward the work that will help keep us a great people. Of course, we welcome the best of all the countries of Europe, but there was ingrained in him, whose forebears had fought to defend the Union of the States, a positive realization that the strains of this country must be kept clean and pure.

So today we bow to the divine will. His spirit has gone to meet its maker. The wheel is broken at the cistern. As his tall figure recedes down the corridors of time, the things that will stand out in the memory of us who knew him and loved him are his gentleness, his kindness, his sociability, his Americanism, his love of his Maker, and his desire to live as his God would have him live.

Mr. MORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. Bryson].

Mr. BRYSON. Mr. Speaker, I join others of my colleagues in an humble expression of my personal loss in the going of Congressman JOHN MARSHALL ROBSION.

Upon coming to Congress, now a decade ago, I expressed the desire for a seat on the House Judiciary Committee. It had been my privilege to serve on similar committees in both branches of my State general assembly, and, as a lawyer, I knew of the opportunities on this distinguished committee. After a lapse of some years, my request was granted. Senator-Congressman ROBSION greeted me as did other members of the committee, and soon I learned of the strong bond of friendship and respect prevailing in our committee's deliberation, regardless of politics.

Like others, I was attracted to Congressman ROBSION by reason of his magnetic personality, his tall and erect body, which in many respects reminded me of President Lincoln. I soon learned that Congressman ROBSION, who bore the name of John Marshall, our greatest Chief Justice, was a profound student of the law. At times when our committee seemed unanimous in some of its decisions, the distinguished lawyer from Kentucky would raise some pertinent question as to the constitutionality of the measure.

Kentucky has furnished many great men who have made impressive contributions upon our country's history. Congressman ROBSION'S name is properly added to these illustrious sons.

As you know, under the act reorganizing Congress, our committee absorbed several other important committees. Congressman ROBSION was appointed chairman of our subcommittee No. 1 which had jurisdiction of revision and recodification of the law. He enjoyed this important work. On the very day of his passing the first volume of the United States Code, beautifully bound, was placed upon your desk. At the beginning of this important publication you will see the facsimile signature of Chairman ROBSION. Judges and lawyers through the years to come will continue to express

admiration and respect for the work done by this student of law.

In addition to the attractive personality of Congressman ROBSION, there were other unusual facts about his history which attracted my attention. It is unusual to find a Republican Member of Congress representing a district south of the Mason and Dixon's line and east of the Mississippi River. He was the first one I ever knew. This fact attests to his worthiness since, generally, Members from the South are Democrats. The fact that our colleague had the high privilege of serving in both branches of the Congress further attests to his greatness. We, as Members of the House, shall miss our colleague, especially those of us who serve on the Judiciary Committee.

The time and manner of the passing of this great man was all that could be desired. I personally express the hope that when my days are done, I shall be permitted to approach my grave, "Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him, and lies down to pleasant dreams." Recalling his active and energetic life, I know that he would not have desired to linger long in illness, a burden to anyone.

It has been an honor, a privilege, and an opportunity for me personally to have known this devoted husband, father and statesman. In this humble impromptu personal manner, I express my great loss in the going of this great man.

Mr. MORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. Jenkins].

Mr. JENKINS of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I should like to add a few words to what has been said about the distinguished gentleman from Kentucky who has gone from us forever. I knew him not only as a fellow Member of the House, but as a strong personal friend. In our activities here in Congress, our friendships are sometimes made closer by reason of the fact that there is a kinship of purpose between us in our efforts to represent our constituency. In our deceased friend,

JOHN ROBSION, I found companionship that helped me in my work. He and I were Members here when the membership of our party was rather slim.

There was a companionship developed at that time between Mr. ROBSION, Mr. Will Taylor, of Tennessee, and myself that held us closely together through the years. We three came from what we call the hill country. Mr. ROBSION was a typical mountain man. Mr. Will Taylor was a mountain man. I, too, am a hill-country man. My district is a hill-country district. We stuck together with remarkable tenacity and fidelity. The records will disclose that we voted together on many important matters. I served with him nearly 24 years. He was my friend and I was his friend. I shall miss my friend JOHN ROBSION very much. My most profound sympathy goes out to his family. He will for generations be the idol of the mountain men of old Kentucky.

Mr. MORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. Heselton].

Mr. HESELTON. Mr. Speaker, while I did not know our colleague so intimately as others who have spoken of him today so eloquently, I did have the privilege and opportunity of meeting him frequently as he came to the floor and went back to his office; particularly this year when we were on the same floor of the Old House Office Building. I, too, learned to admire and respect his judgment, to ask for his advice as a senior Member of this House and a man whom I knew to be well trained as a fine lawyer.

It is a coincidence that only 2 years ago next Saturday we held memorial services for another of his kind, my predecessor, the late Mr. Treadway. As I listened to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. Jenkins] speak I think I understand better why I was led to lean on Mr. ROBSION so frequently, since Mr. Treadway and I, too, come from a hill district, and we have among our constituents that fine rugged type of individuals who make up the best there is in this country of ours.

Then again I thought of another man whom we had lost within the last 12 months. I think he, too, typifies to each of us the kind of fine characteristics which are lost when one of these men goes. I refer to the late Charles Gifford.

Although others have spoken of the giants of the other Congresses, to us who are left here as newcomers, I cannot help but feel that Allen Treadway, Charles Gifford, and JOHN ROBSION represented to us who saw them, listened to them, knew them, and who were greeted with their friendly advice and their suggestions, the very finest type of great Americans of this generation.

I hope and I believe that JOHN ROBSION is this very afternoon in the company of those two great Americans as well as others of whom the older Members have spoken, and I hope they can find it in their souls to commend what their successors may try to do here during the coming trying days and months.

When I learned late Tuesday night of Mr. ROBSION'S death, in talking with one of his constituents, I felt a great sense of personal loss. The next morning many of our employees in the House Buildings and on the floor told me that they, too, shared that feeling of loss. As one of his friends expressed it, "Men of his kind are disappearing all too rapidly from among us." To these eloquent tributes, I do want to add my brief personal one and to express my deepest sympathy to his widow, whom I do not have the privilege of knowing personally, and to his daughter whom I have had the pleasure of meeting.

Mr. MORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. Bates].

Mr. BATES of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, JOHN MARSHALL ROBSION is dead. Saturday at 2:30 in the afternoon thousands of his friends will gather in the little town of Barbourville, Ky., to take one last look at their leader, and he was their leader in a true sense. He was a power that had to be

reckoned with and stood high in his party's councils in the State of Kentucky. He has represented the Ninth Kentucky District in Congress since March 4, 1919, with the exception of a few years in the Senate. He was a courageous legislator, a hard and untiring worker, a capable and conscientious public servant who will be missed by his friends in and out of Congress. I deeply sympathize with his family and join them in this hour of grief.

Mr. MORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have five legislative days in which to extend their remarks in the Record at this point on the life and character of the late JOHN M. ROBSION.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. GWYNNE of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, the sudden death of JOHN M. ROBSION comes as a shock to the many who knew him so well.

Congressman ROBSION was the ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee and chairman of Subcommittee No. 1. He was faithful in his attendance and took an active part both in the committee sessions and in the debate on the floor.

Under the Congressional Reorganization Act, the work of the former Committee on the Revision of the Laws was turned over to the Judiciary Committee. It was in turn made the special responsibility of Subcommittee No. 1. Under the leadership of Mr. ROBSION important bills providing for much-needed codification have already passed the House.

JOHN ROBSION was a good lawyer in the broadest sense of that word. He knew the rules as laid down over the years by legislatures and courts. He also understood the reasons for those rules—the great fundamental principles of fair play upon which those rules are based. He had considerable

experience as a trial lawyer and knew the law also on the practical side and in its application to concrete problems and to human beings.

If required to describe JOHN ROBSION in a single sentence, I would say he was an American of the old school. He believed in the Constitution and accepted it as the basic philosophy of our Government. He had the rugged honesty and the adherence to great fundamentals that we always associate with the American pioneer. Personally, he was always friendly and helpful to all. While firm in his own convictions, he had charity for those who disagreed with him. He was an understanding man, with the understanding that comes not from colleges but from years of friendly association with people.

Mr. RICH. Mr. Speaker, JOHN M. ROBSION was the kind of American we take pleasure in paying tribute to—the kind of Republican we could count on to uphold our Republican principles and policies as he saw them. He was the hardest-working Member of Congress I have known—always interesting himself in the things that he considered to be best for our country. He never feared to express himself when he thought he was fighting for a principle. I know of no one in Congress since I have been a Member that I have had greater admiration and respect for than JOHN M. ROBSION. He will not only be missed by his colleagues but by the people in the Ninth Congressional District which he was so proud to represent. May his soul be carried on to greater heights.

Mr. GILLIE. Mr. Speaker, we pause here today to pay tribute to a grand and noble character and to pay a just and loving acknowledgment to the memory of JOHN M. ROBSION.

Mr. ROBSION was, in all respects, a grand old man. Always generous in wise counsel, he was a constant inspiration to me. His loyal friendship and unselfish interest were a never-failing source of strength in the House of Representatives.

In a wider, less personal sense, JOHN ROBSION's life was rich in contributions to the welfare of his fellow man. He was loved and honored by all who knew him. No man in our time has been more devoted to the advancement of human welfare. His accomplishments will be an eternal shrine to his memory.

I shall always remember him as the embodiment of those stalwart characteristics that have gone into the building of a great nation.

Mr. SMITH of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Mr. ROBSION's passing came to me as a shock as it did to all those who knew him. I shall not forget the kindness with which he greeted me when I first came to Congress 9 years ago. I considered him one of my best friends since that time. He was always an inspiration. We have lost a man of sterling character and shall greatly miss him.

Mr. GREGORY. Mr. Speaker, I was shocked and grieved to hear of the passing of my long-time friend JOHN M. ROBSION. It is hard to believe that this rugged Kentuckian has passed from the stage of action.

He was a man on whom the ravages of time seemed to have no effect. We in Kentucky throughout the years have regarded him as an ageless institution, inasmuch as his alert intellect, his physical vigor and appearance had not changed throughout the passing years.

JOHN M. ROBSION was a great American, always a true Kentuckian, and a stanch Republican. Our political views were naturally at variance. He believed in the principles of his party and had the courage of his convictions always; but when the interests of Kentucky were involved, all political differences were dissolved and he became first a Kentuckian and was always ready to cooperate in anything for the betterment of the State he loved so well.

In his passing a sincere Christian gentleman has put aside the mantle of public service to go to a well-deserved reward. As a tower of wisdom, as a moral and political leader of Ken-

tucky and the Nation, he will be missed; as a true friend of thousands, he will be missed; and, above all, as a devoted and indulgent husband and father, his place cannot be filled.

To his wife, who has always stood faithfully by his side and has helped him share disappointment gracefully and countless honors modestly, to his devoted son and daughter, and to his multitude of stanch and admiring friends, I extend my deepest sympathy.

Mr. DEVITT. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues of the House in expressing profound sorrow upon the passing of JOHN MARSHALL ROBSION. I knew him well and enjoyed the great privilege of serving with him on the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Judge ROBSION was a great character. He possessed a splendid mind, a great wealth of knowledge, and a wonderful sense of humor. He was most cordial and friendly, especially to us newer Members of Congress. He was an indefatigable worker for the things in which he believed. He devoted himself with special diligence and application to the revision of our laws. As chairman of Subcommittee No. 1 of the House Committee on the Judiciary and formerly as a member of the Committee on the Revision of the Laws, he devoted so much of his valuable time and ability in the promotion of this worthwhile effort.

Another of his great interests was the equal-rights amendment to the Constitution. For years he was the recognized champion for the adoption of this amendment. He believed in it and worked prodigiously for its adoption. It is lamentable that his efforts looking toward the adoption of this amendment should have been frustrated just the day before his subcommittee was to open hearings on the proposal.

JOHN MARSHALL ROBSION was a great lawyer, a great jurist, a great Senator, and a great Congressman, but, above all this, he was a man of good character and integrity. He loved and respected his fellow men and in turn was loved so deeply

by all of them. We of the Congress shall miss our genial friend, JOHN MARSHALL ROBSION.

Mr. LANE. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks, I include the following with respect to the late JOHN M. ROBSION, of Kentucky.

Someone has defined immortality as the quality of being remembered affectionately long after one's life has ended.

Limited as this interpretation of a great word may be, it nevertheless touches a responsive chord in all hearts. We want to be remembered, knowing that we must live our lives worthily so as to be deserving of remembrance.

Such a man was our late colleague JOHN M. ROBSION, of Kentucky.

Tall and broad-shouldered "he walked with kings without losing the common touch." I shall never forget his impressive figure and his swinging stride as he moved through the corridors and the aisles of this House with an earthly grace as genuine as the rolling hills of his native State.

Like another great American, he was born in a log cabin. His was not the restlessness of those who are bred in the artificial environment of huge cities. He was rooted in the soil, deriving from it the strength and tranquility and elemental wisdom of Nature itself. Never did he lose himself in the fears and confusions which torment those who have lost contact with the source of their being. Through good times and bad, in fair weather and dark tempest, he made his way with the dignity of a man.

His father was a Union soldier in the War Between the States. His mother was Mary Hyland Robsion. As both of his parents died when he was a boy, JOHN ROBSION had to depend upon his own sturdy initiative, developing that sense of responsibility which later on paid such well-earned dividends in the service he rendered to his State and Nation.

He worked his way through school, graduating from National Normal University, Lebanon, Ohio, and Northern Uni-

versity, Ada, Ohio. He also studied at Centre College and at Holbrook College, Knoxville.

As a young man he taught a Sunday-school class and was a teacher in public schools in the Kentucky mountains and at Union College, Barbourville. He began the practice of law at Barbourville. In 1911 he was elected president of the First National Bank, Barbourville. In 1916, 1928, 1936, and 1940, he was a delegate to the Republican National Convention. In 1928, he managed the Hoover campaign in his State.

"Long JOHN" was a Republican from a normally Democratic State. In view of this fact, the measure of his ability may be gaged from his almost continuous service in the Congress of the United States from 1918 until the night of February 17, 1948, when he passed on in his sleep.

The "Tall Sycamore of Barbourville" was a shrewd politician, ruthless with opponents, but thoughtful of friends. He had the sharp talent for cutting through to a point, but with a twinkle in his eye as he did it.

Once he met the editor of a newspaper in his territory which opposed him. JOHN ROBSION shook hands with his foe and then said: "You come out once a week, and my voice, which, without a megaphone, covers a wider space than your circulation territory, can be raised as often as the occasion demands it."

Prophetic were the words he uttered early this year. "The primary this summer and the election this fall will be my last race. I considered not running again, but a lot of young upstarts have been saying I was slipping. I am going back to Barbourville and show them. I feel good, but sometimes I get awfully tired."

ROBSION campaigned as an isolationist, a prohibitionist, and as a labor supporter. He was one of the few Republicans able to hold his congressional post during the high tide of Democratic popularity.

Chairman of the Committee on Mines and Mining, he was also the ranking Republican on the following House Committees: Roads, Education, Revision of Laws, Pensions, and Judiciary.

It was on the latter assignment that I worked with the veteran lawmaker and came to appreciate the value of his experience, his integrity, and the homespun humanness that made him so likable.

In the words of Representative John McCormack, Democratic Party whip in the House, "He was a hard fighter for the things he believed in."

As Senator Cooper commented, "He was never defeated in 13 races for the House, because he held, more than any other person I've known, the complete loyalty, respect, and affection of his people."

And so JOHN ROBSION joins the honor roll of those who have finished their work in this House of Representatives, to go on, as I believe, to that higher tribunal where his record of service in behalf of his fellowmen and for his God will merit eternal happiness.

Cherished by the living, who will remember him, and welcomed by the Creator who gave him to us for awhile, his immortality is now complete.

Mr. MORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York [Mr. Edwin Arthur Hall].

Mr. EDWIN ARTHUR HALL. Mr. Speaker, many times the older Members of the House, preoccupied as they are by the ever-increasing duties piling upon them, are wont to ignore the status of neophytes and greenhorn new Members.

When I came here in that capacity in the Seventy-sixth Congress no man in the entire House put forth a more friendly hand to me than did Senator ROBSION. He was always ready with constructive suggestions and sound advice. He steered me right more than once in the early days of my service.

JOHN ROBSION was a a great Republican. But before this he was a great American. He was loyal to his party, to his country, and to his conscience. His long distinguished public career was one which younger men could look to and emulate. He was one of the men I have admired consistently throughout the five terms I have served in this House.

His public career is ended. We can look back over the long years of his service and say that while the ermine mantle of public responsibility rested upon his shoulders it touched nothing less spotless than itself. We will miss him, the country will miss him. When a man of his stature passes it leaves a great vacancy not only in the hearts of the people he represented but in the places of the noble as well.

Mr. MORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York, and yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. Chadwick].

Mr. CHADWICK. Mr. Speaker, varying from what I have made the prescribed course for myself in this Congress, I welcome this opportunity to say a few words here in the well of the House in recognition of a man whom I regarded as a really great character.

When I came to the House the first of last year, experiencing the novelties just spoken about by the gentleman from New York, I found myself honored by membership on the Judiciary Committee, and particulary the distinction of serving under Congressman ROBSION on its traditionally great Subcommittee No. 1. I was then making new acquaintances, just as my friend had made them in an earlier Congress. Nowhere did I find a more sympathetic, a more understanding, a more friendly welcome than I received from this kindly gentleman from Kentucky.

He was one of those who seemed to realize that when we come into the House as newcomers we do not come entirely out of a vacuum; he did not hesitate to assume that we could grasp the problems which he imposed upon us as an incident

of service on his committee; but he did not assume that we had the knowledge of legislative procedures that would carry those problems through to conclusion. On the contrary, helping me in my inexperience, he gave me, out of his wide experience, a background of information to make that service more useful.

I want to pay a tribute, therefore, not to his greatness of character—because you gentlemen can do that so much better who have known him so much longer—but here on the floor of the House to acknowledge my personal debt of gratitude to him for the kindly encouragement I received from our now departed colleague.

May I also remind you that his death came at a sad and inopportune time, sad because I know it deprived him of an opportunity to which he had looked forward not only this year, but over the years. The Members of the House know of his devoted sponsorship of a program built around a proposed amendment to the Constitution to recognize the equal rights of women. That was with Mr. ROBSION what my Quaker friends of Delaware County call a deep concern. He was just ready to hear, in his subcommittee, testimony in support of that amendment and related bills.

Although I am sure he would have accepted without cavil any call to duty, whether it came of this world or from above, it must have been a great disappointment to JOHN ROBSION to know, if he did know, that he was to be deprived of the opportunity to make a further contribution to a cause to which he was so completely and devotedly attached.

Mr. McCORMACK. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman from Kentucky yield?

Mr. MORTON. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. McCORMACK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. Camp] may extend his remarks at this point in the Record to join the gentleman

from Kentucky and others in their eulogy of our deceased colleague.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I was indeed grieved to learn that my friend, JOHN M. ROBSION, of Kentucky, has passed on to his eternal reward. This body and the Nation generally has sustained a distinct loss, for there was no finer patriot nor more conscientious worker than he.

I feel in his passing a personal loss. We served together on the Judiciary Committee for a while. We occupied adjoining offices for the past few years in the Old House Office Building and I saw him almost daily.

Judge ROBSION possessed a keen conception of his duty and responsibility as a citizen and as a representative of his people. His faith in them and in our institutions was both beautiful and inspiring, for he always took the optimistic view that the people were right and that truth would prevail.

In physique and in demeanor he typified the sturdy mountain stock from whence he sprung, and which he represented so long and so loyally.

I have lost in him a friend and a neighbor, and my heart goes out to his family and loved ones in their sad hour of bereavement. His people may take pride in his record of faithful, honest, and distinguished service.

Mr. MORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. Meade].

Mr. MEADE of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sense of sorrow and loss that I join here today with my colleagues in paying tribute to my distinguished colleague from Kentucky, JOHN M. ROBSION, a great American and a great Kentuckian, whose death came with such surprising suddenness night before last.

It is my privilege to represent a district adjoining the one represented by Mr. ROBSION in the State of Kentucky, and it is my privilege to represent the same type of people he has represented for these many years.

During the last few months I have been with him in his district, in the small towns and in the rural counties that comprised his district. .I saw then the great devotion which the people of the Ninth Congressional District of Kentucky held for him. They loved Mr. ROBSION, they loved Mr. JOHN, they loved Cousin JOHN, Mr. JOHN M.—they loved the "tall sycamore from the Cumberlands."

He represented his people in a way that they had never before been represented, and I doubt seriously if they will be so ably represented again. It is reported that his mail here in the Congress was the heaviest of any Member. I know the reason for that. It is because they wrote him not only to give him their advice on legislative matters, but they wrote seeking his advice on their own personal affairs, on all matters concerning their home life. They knew that in his wisdom he would tell them the right thing to do, the right way to proceed to straighten out whatever problems they were confronted with.

The passing of Mr. ROBSION is to me a great personal loss. He had served in the Congress from my State for more than 25 years and for 2 years in the other body of this Legislature. It was to him I turned upon my election to the Eightieth Congress. With his usual graciousness, he aided and advised me on the duties of the office and pointed out to me the best way to serve Kentucky and America.

He was one of the most respected Members of this body. He was one of the best loved Members of this body. Members from both sides of the aisle, even when in disagreement with him, respected his faithfulness, his loyalty, and his courage to stand with his convictions.

I am sure that I express the sentiments of all who are present today and those Members who are not here, when I

say that we will cherish the virtues of JOHN M. ROBSION in our minds henceforth with kindest appreciation of his thoughtfulness.

He was the embodiment of those stalwart characteristics that have gone into the building of a great Nation. He was a son of the soil, and though orphaned at an early age he took his own career by the boot straps and lifted himself into the hearts of all real Americans and gained an everlasting place for himself in the Halls of this Congress through his long and faithful and outstanding service. He was a great servant of the people, a true American, a fine friend, and we will all miss him greatly.

To his family we wish to express our sincerest condolences and deepest sympathy.

Mr. MORTON. Mr. Speaker, the comments by his colleagues have certainly borne testimony to the stature of JOHN MARSHALL ROBSION.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members who have spoken on the passing of our late colleague JOHN MARSHALL ROBSION may revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. MORTON. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 470).

The Clerk read as follows:

*Resolved,* That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. JOHN M. ROBSION, a Representative from the State of Kentucky.

*Resolved,* That a committee of five Members of the House with such Members of the Senate as may be joined be appointed to attend the funeral.

*Resolved,* That the Sergeant at Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provision of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

*Resolved,* That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as Members of the House to attend the funeral of our late departed colleague the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. Morton], the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. Meade], the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. Jennings], the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. Gwynne], and the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. Bryson].

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the balance of the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

*Resolved,* That as a further mark of respect the House do now adjourn.

The resolution was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 32 minutes p. m.) the House, under its previous order, adjourned until Monday, February 23, 1948, at 12 o'clock noon.

MONDAY, *February 23, 1948.*

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Frazier, its legislative clerk, announced that the Senate had adopted the following resolution (S. Res. 204):

*Resolved,* That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Hon. JOHN M. ROBSION, late a Representative from the State of Kentucky.

*Resolved,* That a committee of two Senators be appointed by the Presiding Officer of the Senate to join the committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives to attend the funeral of the deceased Representative.

*Resolved,* That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

*Resolved,* That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the Senate do now take a recess until 12 o'clock meridian on Monday next.

The message also announced that, pursuant to the above resolution, the Senators from Kentucky [Mr. Barkley and Mr. Cooper] were appointed on the part of the Senate.

MONDAY, *March 1, 1948.*

Mr. CHELF. Mr. Speaker, when David wrote the fifteenth Psalm, he described in it a citizen of Zion by saying:

> Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in the holy hill?
> 2. He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.
> 3. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.
> 4. In whose eyes a vile person is contemed; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.
> 5. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

David could very easily have had in mind, at the time he penned these lines, a lovable character such as our distinguished and illustrious colleague, the Honorable JOHN M. ROBSION, of the Ninth District of Kentucky, who was summoned to his eternal reward by our Lord and Saviour on Tuesday evening, February 17, 1948.

Mr. JOHN, as I affectionately addressed him, was a gentleman and a scholar of the old school. He was a Chesterfield in his manner. He was courageous, sympathetic, energetic, truthful, honest, extremely intelligent, capable, sincere, and extraordinarily friendly.

Although we differed in our political beliefs, nevertheless, whenever and wherever the interests of Kentucky and Kentuckians were at stake—the party line evaporated into complete insignificance. I cannot recall a single instance where I appealed to him for support of any measure that meant a great deal to the good people of the Fourth District of Ken-

tucky—which I have the honor and privilege to represent—that he did not join me in an all-out effort to get the job done. He worked with the entire delegation and we fought shoulder to shoulder as a team for the common good and general welfare of our native State.

The great people of the Ninth Congressional District have honored him by electing him to public office since the Sixty-sixth Congress. They have reelected him time and time again to fight their battles here in the greatest deliberative body on earth—the Congress of the United States of America. The day was never too long or too hot and the night was never too dark or too cold for Mr. JOHN to answer the call of duty. He loved his Nation, his State, his district, his constituents, and his fellow man with a religious devotion.

There were times in our work on the great Judiciary Committee—where he was the ranking majority member next in line to the chairman—that I knew he was ill, times when a much younger man would have refrained from attending our strenuous meetings in order to preserve his strength and vitality, but Mr. JOHN'S loyalty and devotion to duty and to service sparked his efforts and redoubled his determination to be present.

His sage advice and counsel, his fatherly interest, his quick wit and homespun humor, his grasp of the law, his analytical mind, and his extraordinary ability to express himself in debate upon the floor of the House caused him to be loved all the more by his friends and respected by his adversaries. If Mr. JOHN had a single enemy on Capitol Hill, I never heard of it. He was admired and respected by all respectable people. The House of Representatives—the Congress of the United States—can ill afford to lose a man of the character of JOHN MARSHALL ROBSION.

He was my good friend. We served, not only on the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives, but also together on the Subcommittee of Immigration and Naturalization and Subcommittee No. 1 on the Revision of the Laws,

of which he was the chairman. There were days that we did not see eye to eye on a given piece of legislation but when the chips were down and the discussion or debate had subsided and the vote had been taken, his lovable disposition invariably brought about peace, harmony, and good will. As a result, no Member ever left Mr. JOHN'S committee meetings out of humor, out of patience, or out of sorts.

Truly, this outstanding American, this great Kentuckian, this towering oak of intellectual strength, this stalwart example of physical endurance from the mountain section of old Kentucky died like a soldier. He was cut down in the line of duty by the assassin of overwork. The service rendered by this good man to the people he represented was a constant source of inspiration to all of his colleagues.

Mr. JOHN needs no monument erected to his memory, for during the 75 years of his life, he, himself, has constructed a monument that shall live forever in the hearts and in the minds of all those who had the good fortune to know him.

May his bereaved family know some measure of satisfaction from the words of our Master: "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted." May God bless and keep his loved ones forever and a day.

# Proceedings
in the
# United States Senate

# Proceedings in the Senate

FRIDAY, *February 20, 1948.*

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Swanson, one of its reading clerks, communicated to the Senate the intelligence of the death of Hon. JOHN M. ROBSION, late a Representative from the State of Kentucky.

Mr. BARKLEY. Mr. President, inasmuch as I may not be on the floor when the House resolution regarding the death of the Honorable JOHN M. ROBSION, of Kentucky, is laid before the Senate, I wish to say a brief word in regard to Mr. ROBSION.

I am sure that in my expressions of regret over his death I speak the sentiments of all who knew Mr. ROBSION. He served in the Congress of the United States for more than two decades. He served in the Senate for a while under appointment by the Governor of Kentucky when the then Senator from Kentucky, the Honorable Frederick Sackett, was appointed Ambassador to Germany by President Hoover. He had previously served for many years in the House of Representatives, and went back to the House of Representatives after his service here for a year or two under the appointment to which I have referred. So that over the years he has been a Member of the two Houses of Congress as long as a vast majority, and even longer than a vast majority of Members serve in the Congress of the United States.

Mr. ROBSION was an ardent Republican. I am, of course, as almost everyone knows, the same kind of a Democrat. But all during the service of Mr. ROBSION in the House and in the Senate he and I maintained the warmest personal friendship. There was not only such a friendship between him and me, but between his family and mine. As so often

happens in both branches of the Congress, some of the warmest personal friendships exist between members of different political affiliations. That is perfectly natural and perfectly proper, because while we may differ vigorously with respect to public matters and political problems, we always recognize the personal virtues, character, personality, sincerity, and honesty of those with whom we associate in the legislative process.

I had the greatest respect for Mr. ROBSION, and I think that respect was reciprocated. On many occasions he had an opportunity to do me a personal favor or to speak a personal word of commendation, which he was always ready and willing to do.

So I mourn his death as a friend, and I am sure that a vast concourse of people in Kentucky who have known him during his entire public life will mourn his death and will miss him in the political and social councils of the State which he represented in Congress for so long.

I am glad to speak this word in tribute to him and express my deep regret at the news of his death.

Mr. TAFT. Mr. President, I should like also to express from this side of the aisle, and for myself personally, the deep regret which all of us feel at the death of JOHN M. ROBSION. He was a personal friend of mine. He came from a neighboring State. I have known him personally for many years. He came from a Republican district. He was, as the distinguished Senator from Kentucky has said, a strong Republican; but he was much more than that—he was a great citizen of Kentucky and of the United States. He was a man of unquestioned integrity and of great ability. He acquired a complete knowledge of the legislative process, and he presented his views and represented the people of his district and his State in a most effective and convincing manner in the House of Representatives.

He was also, as has been stated, a former Member of this body, in which he served for a short period after the resignation of Senator Sackett.

I do not believe that anyone could be a better example of the type of man to whom the American people desire to entrust their interests in the Congress of the United States. I wish to testify to my own deep regret and sympathy with his friends and constituents, and express unending sorrow that he should have been taken at this time from his service in the House of Representatives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate a resolution from the House of Representatives, which will be read.

The Chief Clerk read the resolution (H. Res. 470), as follows:

*Resolved,* That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. JOHN M. ROBSION, a Representative from the State of Kentucky.

*Resolved,* That a committee of five Members of the House with such Members of the Senate as may be joined be appointed to attend the funeral.

*Resolved,* That the Sergeant at Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provision of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

*Resolved,* That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

*Resolved,* That as a further mark of respect the House do now adjourn.

Mr. KNOWLAND. Mr. President, on behalf of the senior Senator from Kentucky [Mr. Barkley] and the junior Senator from Kentucky [Mr. Cooper], I send to the desk a resolution which I ask to have read and immediately considered.

The resolution (S. Res. 204) was read, considered by unanimous consent, and unanimously agreed to, as follows:

*Resolved,* That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Hon. JOHN M. ROBSION, late a Representative from the State of Kentucky.

*Resolved,* That a committee of two Senators be appointed by the Presiding Officer of the Senate to join the committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives to attend the funeral of the deceased Representative.

*Resolved,* That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair names as the committee on behalf of the Senate provided for in the resolution just agreed to the senior Senator from Kentucky [Mr. Barkley] and the junior Senator from Kentucky [Mr. Cooper].

Mr. KNOWLAND. Mr. President, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Representative, I move that the Senate now recess until 12 o'clock noon on Monday next.

The motion was unanimously agreed to; and (at 5 o'clock and 10 minutes p. m.) the Senate took a recess until Monday, February 23, 1948, at 12 o'clock meridian.

MONDAY, *February 23, 1948.*

BY THE PRESIDENT PROTEMPORE

A concurrent resolution of the Legislature of the State of Kentucky; ordered to lie on the table:

"Senate Resolution 42

"Concurrent resolution in reverence of the late JOHN M. ROBSION

"Whereas God, in His infinite wisdom, has seen fit to call from earthly labors a great servant of Kentucky and of our Nation, JOHN M. ROBSION; and

"Whereas his passing is a source of the deepest sorrow for the members of this body; and

"Whereas it is just and fitting that this body properly express reverence to this true statesman: Now, therefore, be it

*"Resolved by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Kentucky (the house of representatives concurring therein)*, That the members of this body do express to the family of JOHN M. ROBSION their deepest sympathy, and their regret that he should have been taken at a time when he was of such great usefulness to the people of Kentucky, and their gratitude for the services he rendered to the people of Kentucky in his capacity as a faithful public representative and servant.

"That the members of this body to convey to the Kentucky delegation in Congress of the United States condolence in the loss of their worthy fellow member.

"That the members of this body do make known to the Congress of the United States their pride in the representation that the people of Kentucky received through the untiring efforts of JOHN M. ROBSION.

"That it is the sincere feeling of the members of this body that all honor is due to the memory of this man who was an example of rugged honesty, standing in fear of no person or organization in denouncing corruption wherever he found it, and faithful and untiring in his efforts to serve the people of Kentucky.

"That a copy of this resolution be transmitted by the clerk of the Senate to the family of the late JOHN M. ROBSION and to each member of the Kentucky delegation in Congress, and to the Clerk of the House of Representatives of the Congress.

"Attest:

"MARY LOU HUBBARD,
*"Assistant Clerk of the Senate.*

"FEBRUARY 18, 1948."

FRIDAY, *December 31, 1948.*

Mr. COOPER. Mr. President, I desire to speak briefly today of a former Member of the Congress who died in February of this year. I speak of JOHN MARSHALL ROBSION, who represented the Ninth Congressional District of Kentucky, in which I reside, formerly the Eleventh Congressional District, continuously during the 30 years from 1918 to 1948, with the exception of 1931 and 1932, when he was in voluntary retirement, and the year 1930, when he was a Member of the United States Senate.

Even before his election to Congress he had demonstrated the qualities of leadership which were to mark his service here, and had attained outstanding success as an educator in the public schools and colleges of Kentucky, as a banker, and as one of the great lawyers of our State.

It is unnecessary for me to retell in detail the story of his work and accomplishments as a Member of the Congress. He never stopped working, and as a ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary he had practically completed, at the time of his death, the task of revising and codifying the United States Code, and helping to enact it into positive law.

Others collaborated, but I am sure that all would agree that it was solely the industry and the broad legal knowledge of Mr. ROBSION that made possible this monumental achievement.

His career in the Congress was marked by conscientious work in committee, by vigorous debate on the floor, and by a broad interest and knowledge of all fields of legislation.

Perhaps, however, his people will remember him for his work in those fields which touched their daily needs, his labors in behalf of roads and schools, and for his sympathetic interest in those who labor on the farm, in the mines, and in the factories. Himself, the son of a wounded Union soldier, and the father of a soldier, his namesake, he was the friend of the soldier. Thousands of veterans and their dependents will attest to his affection for those who had known the heat of battle, their widows and orphans.

The regard in which he was held by his people, and by his colleagues in Congress did not arise from superficial qualities. It arose from his strong and independent mind and from the enduring qualities of his character, his unquestioned integrity, his tolerance and sympathy, and his great humility.

Above all other characteristics, perhaps, which we knew he possessed, was that fierce and patriotic love of country

and its institutions which is the proud mark of the people he represented.

In appearance, in action, and in thought, he was a leader, and bore well the title given to him by his people, "The Tall Sycamore of the Mountains."

It has been difficult for me to speak of him because of the respect and affection I held for him, but in this inadequate way I have wanted to remember a firm friend and a great leader.

I now ask unanimous consent that there be printed in the Record following my remarks an editorial by the distinguished editor of the Louisville Times, Mr. Tom Wallace, regarding Mr. ROBSION, and an article by Mr. Harry Snyder of the Owensboro (Ky.) Messenger paying tribute to him.

There being no objection, the editorial and article were ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

[From the Louisville Times of February 21, 1948]

ROBSION'S FRANKNESS UNFAILING—CANDOR IN COMMITTING HIMSELF IN WRITING REFRESHING CONTRAST TO EVASIONS OF MANY

(By Tom Wallace)

One characteristic of the late Representative JOHN ROBSION, who knew a great deal about personal politics; about how to earn friendships by performing services for his constituents, be it getting for them garden seed or pensions or something else, was his willingness to commit himself on issues when queried.

His congressional district was not anywhere near Mammoth Cave National Park, and Kentucky's sectionalism is well known. But, when I wrote to him in opposition to the proposed Mining City Dam in Green River which would affect the underground streams in Mammoth Cave and in other ways injure the park, he promptly replied that he would oppose it.

"I am very much opposed to any action which will lessen the value of our wonderful Mammoth Cave," he said, "not only as a great asset to Kentucky but to the Nation as a whole, and I am sure this is the view of an overwhelming majority of Kentuckians and the people of the Nation."

He was among the earliest Kentuckians in public office who opposed the projected power dam in Cumberland River which would have destroyed Cumberland Falls. The dam was advocated

by Flem D. Sampson, a Republican Governor from Mr. ROBSION'S section.

It falls to the lot of persons interested in legislation affecting natural resources to write occasionally to Members of their State's delegation in Washington, asking them to oppose or to support this or that pending bill.

### ARTFUL DODGERS

Anyone who writes to his State's delegation a few times learns what to expect in the way of replies. He soon learns that there are Members of Congress who will never so reply that they are committed to anything, no matter how well they know the effect of proposed legislation; no matter how determined they are to vote for it or against it. Their letters are models of courtesy and calculated evasiveness. They reply promptly and the man who has written to them knows nothing about their intentions beyond knowing that they do not intend being frank.

A poller of members of a State delegation gets candid responses from some of them and the usual dodge-the-issue responses from others. Mr. ROBSION was among the candid repliers. I always knew what to expect from him. I did not know what his position would be, but I knew he would say forthrightly what it was.

No matter how one may differ with a lawmaker, the lawmaker earns his respect if he is willing to be frank when it would be wholly unreasonable to believe the measure under discussion one as to which he could be without opinion because of lack of information.

I always attributed Mr. ROBSION'S straightforward replies to superior intelligence as well as to courage. In my opinion, a politician who thinks it wise, or smart, to be habitually evasive is a good deal less smart than he thinks he is, because anyone who deals with him and learns that he is always bent upon being sleek or slippery loses respect for his character no matter how he bellows and bawls on the stump about his righteousness.

### SENSE OF HUMOR

Mr. ROBSION had a sense of humor, about others and about himself, and a keen sense of humor is a reflection of keen mentality. The pompous man is the dull and undiscerning man. As a figure in politics he is no novelty.

Not being among those who instinctively dislike, distrust, and disparage a politician because he is of one political party and instinctively think well of a man who belongs to another political party, I was never much moved by the party label under which Mr. ROBSION won his honors and kept them to the end of his long life.

I liked him, enjoyed his company when—rarely—we were thrown together. But I especially like dealing with him as to measures pending in Congress. When a lawmaker writes, in response to a legitimate question, an answer which suggests the possibility that it is a form letter which he does not actually dictate; a letter which his secretary knows how to write and does write, for his signature, knowing that he will sign it and a sheaf of like letters without reading them, the recipient of the form letter develops an opinion as to the character of the signer. That opinion is so uncomplimentary that any man of high intelligence would wish to avoid incurring it.

Mr. ROBSION was highly intelligent. He was in manner and in speech almost as rural as the late Joe Cannon, who after 30 years in Congress was, perhaps painstakingly, a man from Vermilion County, Ill. The quaintness of LONG JOHN ROBSION along with his faculty for humor, made him a most agreeable companion. His formula for political success was based on recognition of the high value of personal contacts, and he was singularly successful.

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[From the Owensboro (Ky.) Messenger of February 22, 1948]

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT SAYS MONUMENTS TO REPRESENTATIVE ROBSION NOT NECESSARY—HE HAS THEM

(By Harry Snyder)

WASHINGTON.—The last roll call has been answered by Representative ROBSION, Republican, of Kentucky, but it will be a long time before he passes from the memories of his associates on Capitol Hill.

"Did you know him well?" ask his colleagues. "He was a real character."

His friends say they won't have to build any monuments to him. He has them already. They are real, live people.

Here is what they mean:

Back in 1919, after the one-time rough-and-tumble school teacher turned lawyer and was elected to Congress, he decided to help young fellows improve themselves.

So he began the practice of hiring young men to work in his office or elsewhere in the Federal Government. But they had to agree to go to school while they worked.

There was Charlie Parrigin, of Clinton County. The Congressman brought him to the Capital, watched him go through National University, get his law degree. Today he is chief of a division in the Department of Internal Revenue.

Then there was Sam Bass, from the home district. Sam became an accountant. Now he's with the Federal Reserve Board.

After Sam came Walter Ray Smith, of Williamsburg. That was in 1922.

Ray came to the Capital in response to a telegram from the Congressman. "I've got a job for you, Ray," said ROBSION; "you start today. But I want you to start to school right away—tonight. I'll be watching you."

Smith did. He studied shorthand and typing, and one day he was directed to take over the Congressman's secretarial duties.

For 26 years he has served in that capacity, picking up a law degree and a master's degree on the side. Now it is his job to wind up his mentor's affairs.

Ben Sharp, of Jamestown, was another young man to whom ROBSION lent a helping hand. Ben, too, got a law degree and now is practicing in his home town.

Next came John Cannon, a Washington youth, who responded to an advertisement which offered "office work at poor pay but with an opportunity to get an education." Cannon now is chief attorney of the Chicago district of the Bureau of Aeronautics.

From London came Rufe Bird, who was guided through a business-college course as he worked in the Kentuckian's office. He now is a successful businessman in his home town.

It was then time for the Representative's son, John M., Jr., to take his turn at the office routine. Young John did, getting his law degree at Georgetown University at the same time. He now practices law in Louisville.

Then there was Joe Muncey, of Leslie County, who worked his way through a business college and departed to make his home in Ohio.

Since the war "J. M." had brought on Roy Woolum, of Knox County, an Army veteran, and Harvey Cromer, of Whitney County, a Navy veteran.

Close associates of the Congressman credit him with helping Herbert Hoover gain acceptance by many Republican Members of the House.

"ROBSION began inviting Hoover to dinner with his colleagues," it is told. "He had Hoover meet his friends in small groups from time to time. Finally, Hoover made friends with a majority of them, and his nomination followed."

ROBSION turned down the Secretary of the Interior post under Hoover.

"I want to do something for you," the former President is quoted as having told ROBSION. "How about that boy of yours?"

The Congressman's son was then working in the Pension Bureau.

"I'll make him chief of the Law Division in the Pension Bureau," said Hoover.

Young Robsion was one of the youngest division chiefs in the Department. He was 24.

A colleague recalls another incident to demonstrate Robsion's independence. He was then a Senator, having been appointed to fill a vacancy.

Hoover had nominated Judge John Parker, of North Carolina, for the Supreme Court. Parker had earned the opposition of organized labor and Robsion shared the feeling.

He is reported to have gone to the President and urged him to withdraw the appointment. Hoover was adamant. Robsion is reported to have told him:

"Mr. President, I am sorry you are taking this stand. The vote in the Senate will be close. I will vote against confirmation."

Parker was rejected by the Senate by one vote. It was Robsion's.

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